集英社文庫

や 35 1
明日の王様
1
谷地恵美子
集英社文庫

谷地恵美子

1978年「花とゆめ」21号「コ」アはもうだめ」でデビュー
代表作に「かかってきなさい!」「サバス カフェ」
「オモチャたちの午後」など。
青森県出身の東京都在住。
11月20日生まれでB型
女性誌 ヤング誌を中心に、にこにこ、おっとりと執筆中。

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定価 本体600円＋税

生まれて初めて観た芝居が、冴えない女子大生・有の
運命を変えた！ 俳優・樫 十也の演技に魅せられた有は、
役者を目指して小劇団"牙乱洞"に入団するが…？
個性的な団員達と繰りひろげる、有の
ドリーミング・ラブロマン！

書籍エッセイ「みーは一モ 8-1」収録

明日の王様

Ashita No Ousama

谷地恵美子

by Yachi Emiko

集英社文庫

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明日の王様 ①
Ashita No
UNIT 1
谷地恵美子
Yachi Emiko

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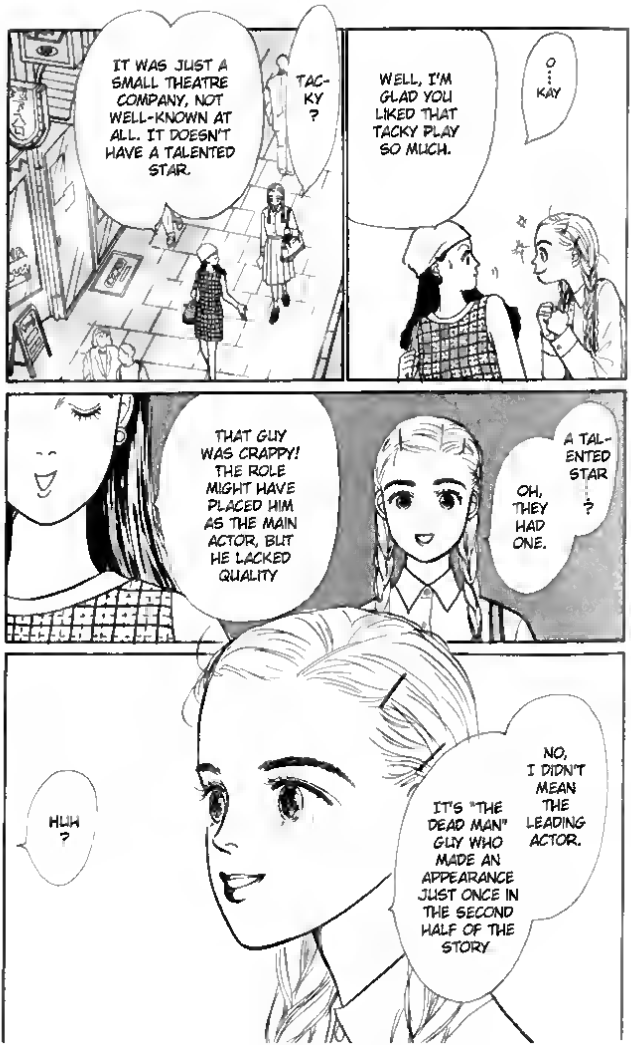
I'M SORRY
Phew
EH?
FOR DRAGGING YOU ALONG WITH ME.
MY FRIEND PROMISED TO COME BUT SHE BLEW ME OFF AT THE LAST MINUTE I DIDN'T WANT THE TICKET TO GO TO WASTE THE ONLY PERSON WHO SEEMS TO BE FREE ALL THE TIME IS SASAYA-SAN.
BUT SASAYA-SAN PROBABLY DOESN'T CARE MUCH ABOUT STAGE PLAYS, RIGHT!?
OH, NO! IT WAS SO MUCH FUN.
I HAD NO IDEA SOMETHING LIKE THIS EXISTED! IT AMAZED ME.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ASKING ME!!


IT WAS JUST A SMALL THEATRE COMPANY, NOT WELL-KNOWN AT ALL. IT DOESN'T HAVE A TALENTED STAR.
TAC-KY ?
WELL, I'M GLAD YOU LIKED THAT TACKY PLAY SO MUCH.
O…KAY
THAT GUY WAS CRAPPY! THE ROLE MIGHT HAVE PLACED HIM AS THE MAIN ACTOR, BUT HE LACKED QUALITY
OH, THEY HAD ONE.
A TAL-ENTED STAR…?
HUH ?
IT'S "THE DEAD MAN" GUY WHO MADE AN APPEARANCE JUST ONCE IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE STORY
NO, I DIDN'T MEAN THE LEADING ACTOR.

BUT HE WAS REALLY GOOD.
Lousy lousy!
WHO CARES ABOUT SUCH A MINOR ROLE! ANYONE CAN PLAY IT. AND HE DIDN'T EVEN SHOW HIS FACE.
ARE YOU NUTS !?
HE DRESSED IN RAGS AND HAD A MOUTH LIKE THIS
FUFUFU.. ACTUALLY, MY COUSIN IS IN THE FAMOUS THEATRE COMPANY, ELOQUENCE
ANYWAY, I JUST BOUGHT THE TICKETS BECAUSE OF THE SELLER WHO CARES ABOUT THAT PLAY!
Forget it ! was just bragging anyway.
THE MEDIA LOVES THEM. SURELY YOU HAVE HEARD THE NAME.
SORRY, I'M SUCH A FROG IN THE WELL...

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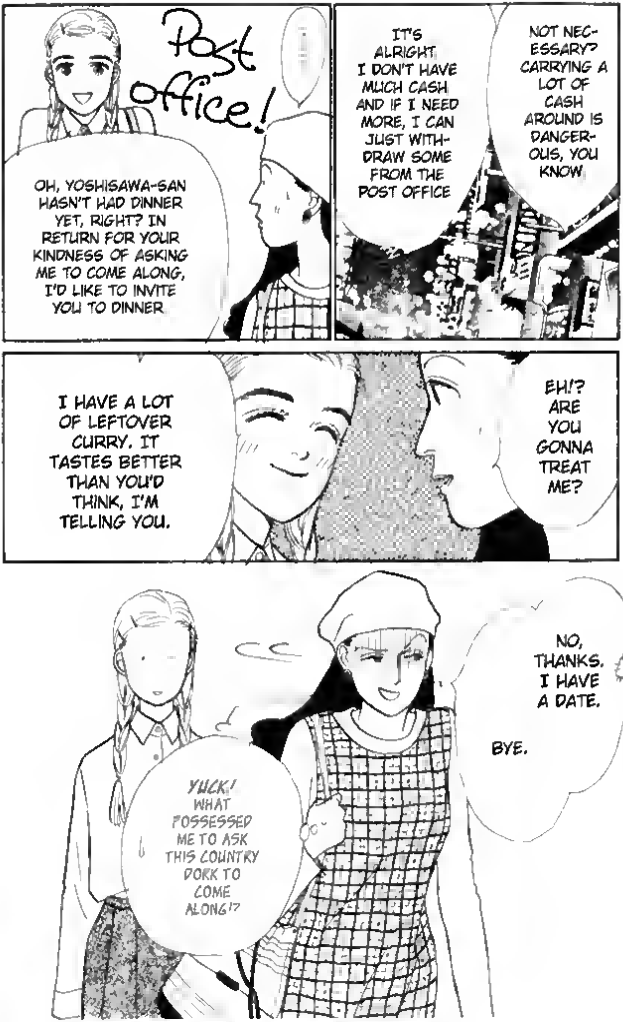
UMM
YOU KNOW, THE TICKET FARE
Would you ?
OH, RIGHT! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU RIGHT NOW.
SWIP
eww!
old-fashioned snapped coin purse.
with a bell too
UMM... SORRY, I ONLY HAVE SMALL BILLS. IS THAT OKAY?
NO PROBLEM.
BUT YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T PUT CARDS IN THAT KIND OF PURSE ISN'T THAT INCONVENIENT?
CARDS ?
You know
LIKE CASH CARDS OR CREDIT CARDS
I DON'T USE THEM.
EH? NOT EVEN ONE?
In this day and age?
IT'S NOT NECESSARY

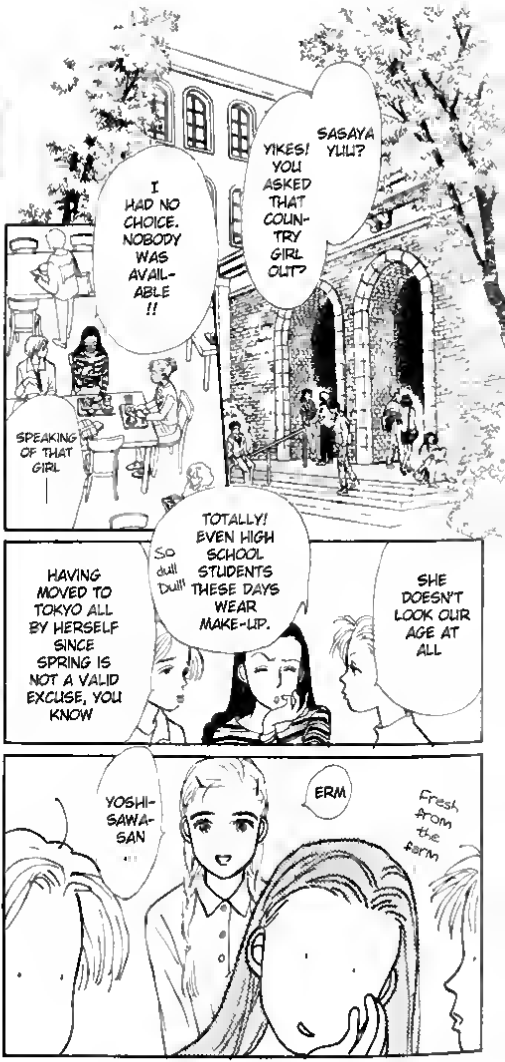

Post office!
OH, YOSHISAWA-SAN HASN'T HAD DINNER YET, RIGHT? IN RETURN FOR YOUR KINDNESS OF ASKING ME TO COME ALONG, I'D LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO DINNER.
IT'S ALRIGHT. I DON'T HAVE MUCH CASH AND IF I NEED MORE, I CAN JUST WITHDRAW SOME FROM THE POST OFFICE
NOT NECESSARY? CARRYING A LOT OF CASH AROUND IS DANGEROUS, YOU KNOW.
I HAVE A LOT OF LEFTOVER CURRY. IT TASTES BETTER THAN YOU'D THINK, I'M TELLING YOU.
EH!? ARE YOU GONNA TREAT ME?
NO, THANKS. I HAVE A DATE.
BYE.
YUCK! WHAT POSSESSED ME TO ASK THIS COUNTRY DORK TO COME ALONG!?

STOP IT! YOU'RE TOO LOUD. IT'S EMBARRASSING!!
Yoshisawa-san, thank you so much for today!
TICKET FARE 3,500 YEN AND

Ri Se
"To grace the shining of the moon."
CHINK
"In the dark-ness"
"All I can see are night-mares"
POET LAUREATE
"Open your eyes"
"Yes I mean, you You!"
"The coward behind the cover of the beast"

GRANNY.
MAYBE I'VE FOUND IT.

デザート 大好きっ!



好きだけど
今はメインが食べたい

高文
野ゆかり

*コメントはキングユー礼載時のもの

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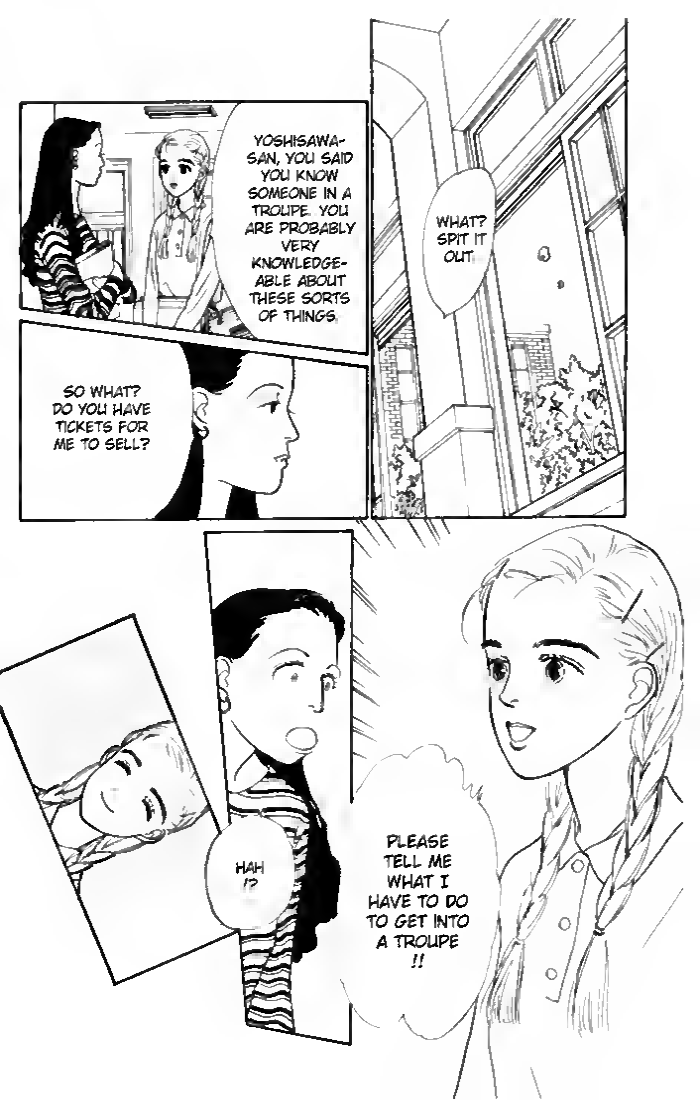
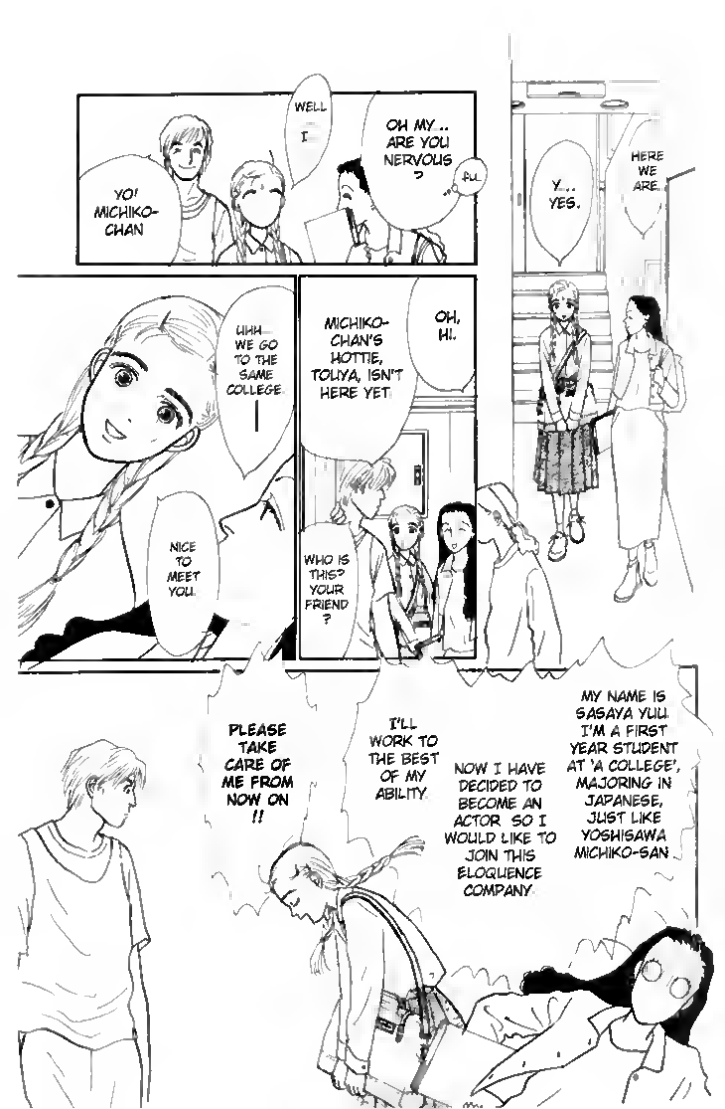
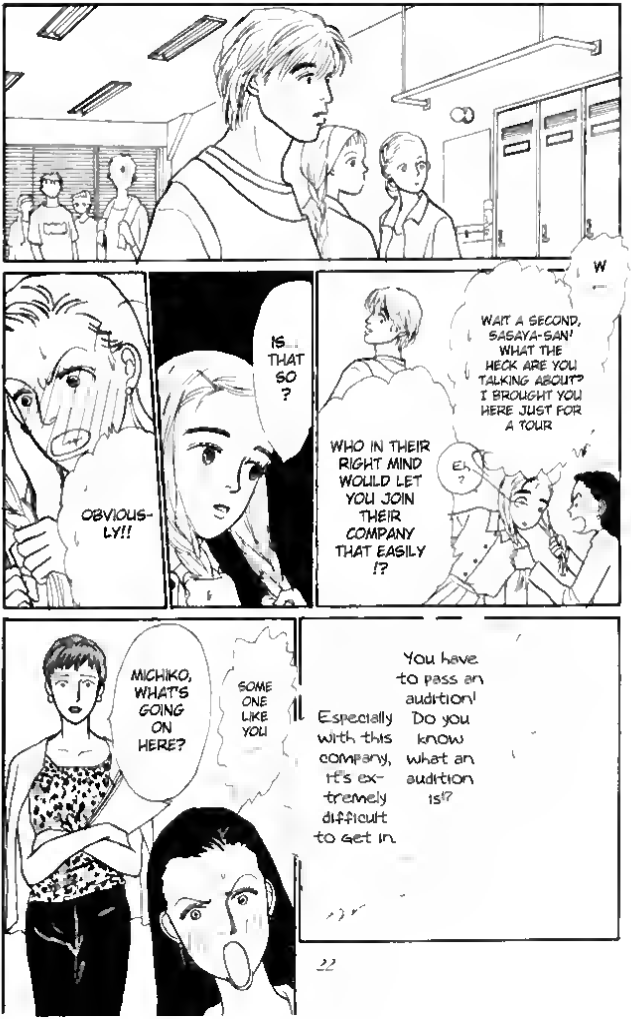
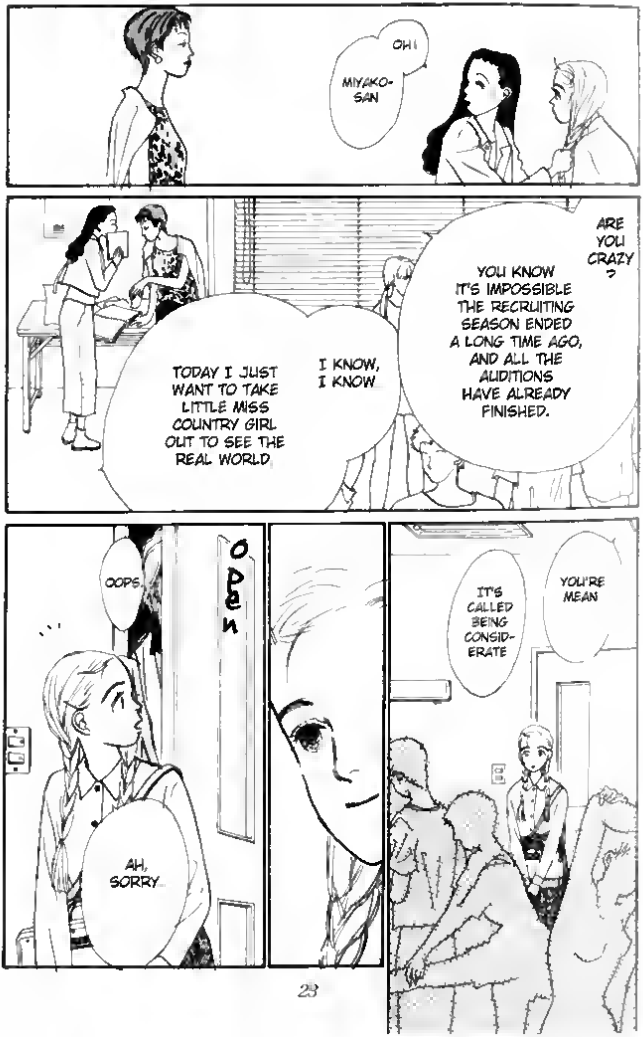

YOSHISAWA-SAN, YOU SAID YOU KNOW SOMEONE IN A TROUPE. YOU ARE PROBABLY VERY KNOWLEDGE-ABLE ABOUT THESE SORTS OF THINGS.
SO WHAT? DO YOU HAVE TICKETS FOR ME TO SELL?
WHAT? SPIT IT OUT.
HAH !?
PLEASE TELL ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO GET INTO A TROUPE !!

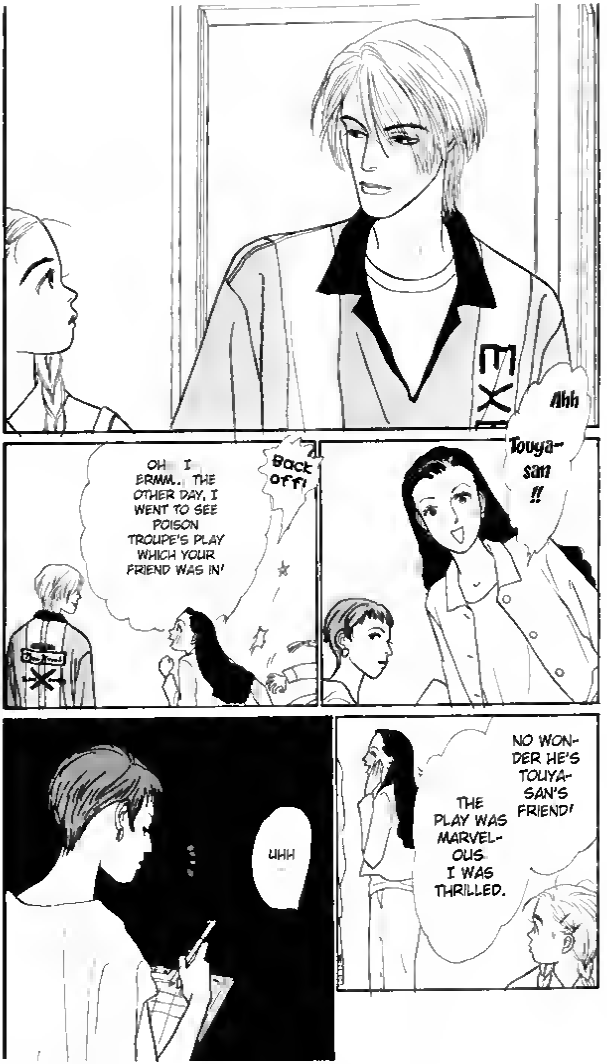
HA HA HA HA HA
FU
FU
FU
LISTEN, LISTEN! TH...THAT SASAYA GIRL!!
YOSHISAWA-SAN, WHY ARE YOU HUDDLING OVER THERE LIKE THAT?
I was thinking about it all night
That place! That world! Those movements!
I was so impressed
I want to be an actor!

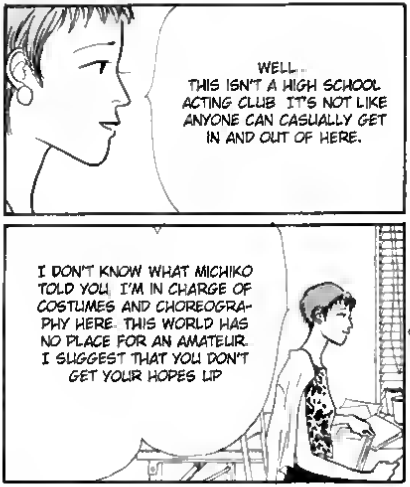
FREEZE!
.....
DOES SHE THINK IT'S THAT EASY!?
HOW COOL IS THAT!? WHAT A NUT JOB SHE IS!
ACTOR!?
PLAYING PRANKS ON HER. THIS IS GONNA BE FUN!
KU KU KU KU
I FEEL LIKE
Let's see
FU FU FU FU FU FU
YOSHI-SAWA-SAN.?
FU FU FU FU FU FU
STUDIO


YO! MICHIKO-CHAN
WELL I
OH MY.. ARE YOU NERVOUS ?
GU..
Y.. YES.
HERE WE ARE.
UHH.. WE GO TO THE SAME COLLEGE.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
MICHIKO-CHAN'S HOTTIE, TOLIYA, ISN'T HERE YET.
WHO IS THIS? YOUR FRIEND ?
OH, HI.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME FROM NOW ON !!
I'LL WORK TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.
NOW I HAVE DECIDED TO BECOME AN ACTOR SO I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THIS ELOQUENCE COMPANY.
MY NAME IS SASAYA YUU. I'M A FIRST YEAR STUDENT AT 'A COLLEGE', MAJORING IN JAPANESE, JUST LIKE YOSHISAWA MICHIKO-SAN.


W
WAIT A SECOND, SASAYA-SAN! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I BROUGHT YOU HERE JUST FOR A TOUR
Eh ?
WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD LET YOU JOIN THEIR COMPANY THAT EASILY !?
IS... THAT SO ?
OBVIOUS-LY!!
You have to pass an audition! Do you know what an audition is!?
Especially with this company, it's ex-tremely difficult to get in.
MICHIKO, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
SOME ONE LIKE YOU!


OH!
MIYAKO-SAN
ARE YOU CRAZY?
YOU KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THE RECRUITING SEASON ENDED A LONG TIME AGO, AND ALL THE AUDITIONS HAVE ALREADY FINISHED.
I KNOW, I KNOW
TODAY I JUST WANT TO TAKE LITTLE MISS COUNTRY GIRL OUT TO SEE THE REAL WORLD
OPEN
OOPS
AH, SORRY
YOU'RE MEAN
IT'S CALLED BEING CONSID-ERATE


Ahh
Touya-san !!
Back off!
OH I ERMM.. THE OTHER DAY, I WENT TO SEE POISON TROUPE'S PLAY WHICH YOUR FRIEND WAS IN!
NO WONDER HE'S TOUYA-SAN'S FRIEND!
THE PLAY WAS MARVEL-OUS. I WAS THRILLED.
UHH


WELL...
THIS ISN'T A HIGH SCHOOL ACTING CLUB. IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE CAN CASUALLY GET IN AND OUT OF HERE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MICHIKO TOLD YOU. I'M IN CHARGE OF COSTUMES AND CHOREOGRAPHY HERE. THIS WORLD HAS NO PLACE FOR AN AMATEUR. I SUGGEST THAT YOU DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP.
SO... SERIOUSLY, I CAN'T JOIN THIS COMPANY, RIGHT?
I couldn't help but overhearing

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR KINDNESS,
BUT RIGHT NOW I'M JUST STANDING AT THE ENTRANCE GATE.
TO BACK OFF WITHOUT EVER TAKING A STEP BEYOND IT IS NOT AN OPTION FOR ME.

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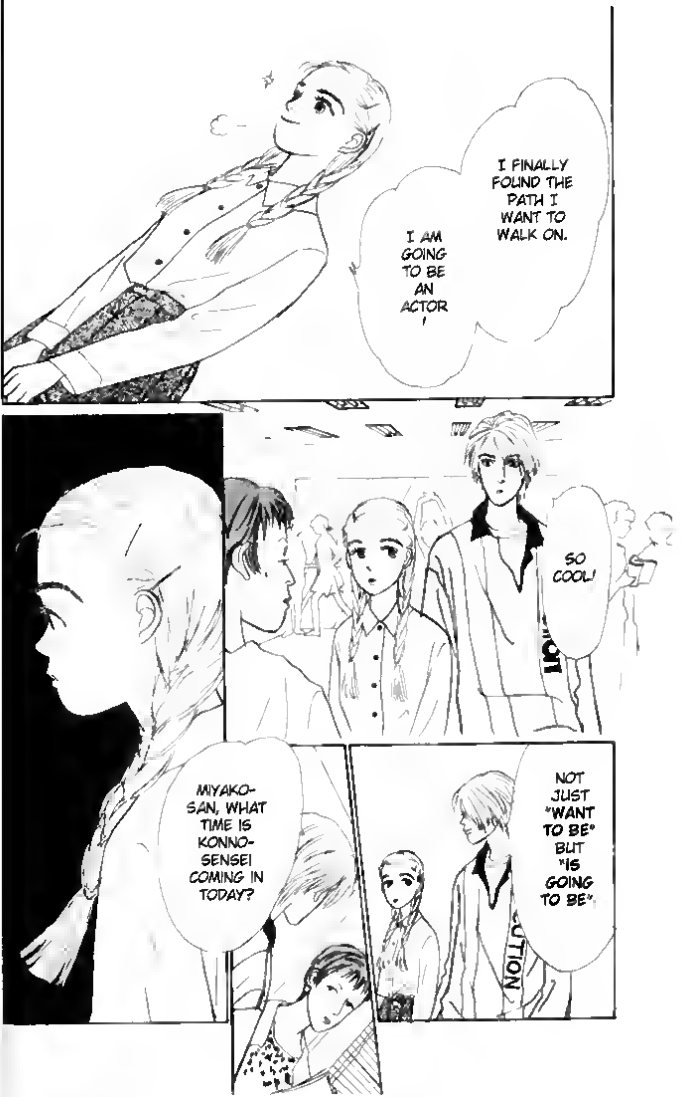
I FINALLY FOUND THE PATH I WANT TO WALK ON.
I AM GOING TO BE AN ACTOR!
SO COOL!
NOT JUST "WANT TO BE" BUT "IS GOING TO BE".
MIYAKO-SAN, WHAT TIME IS KONNO-SENSEI COMING IN TODAY?

THE DEAD MAN IN "POET LAUREATE"
AH!
YOU PLAYED THE ROLE MARVELOUSLY! IT'S STILL FRESH IN MY MIND.
THE MOVEMENT OF YOUR HAND WHEN YOU FIRST APPEARED ON THE STAGE
What's she talking about?

EXCUSE US!
?
ERR.....
?
slam
ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THAT TROUPE ?
UHH... NO?
THEN HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT IT WAS ME !?
YOU COULDN'T SEE MY FACE !!

MY... VOICE ...?
YES
BUT I HEARD YOUR VOICE
ON STAGE, IT WAS A LITTLE LOWER IN PITCH BUT DEFINITELY YOURS.
"In the darkness, all I can see are nightmares."
"The coward behind the

I HELPED THEM FOR JUST THAT ONE DAY
WHAT A LIAR
I JUST WENT TO CHECK ON MY FRIEND
COINCIDENTLY, THE ACTOR HAPPENED TO BE SICK ALL OF A SUDDEN. THE PLAY WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN AND MY FRIEND WAS CRYING. I FELT BAD FOR HIM.
IF ANYONE KNOWS THAT I ACTED ON ANOTHER STAGE WITHOUT PERMISSION. I'M SCREWED
THIS COMPANY IS VERY STRICT ABOUT THAT
BUT YOU WERE HELPING A FRIEND

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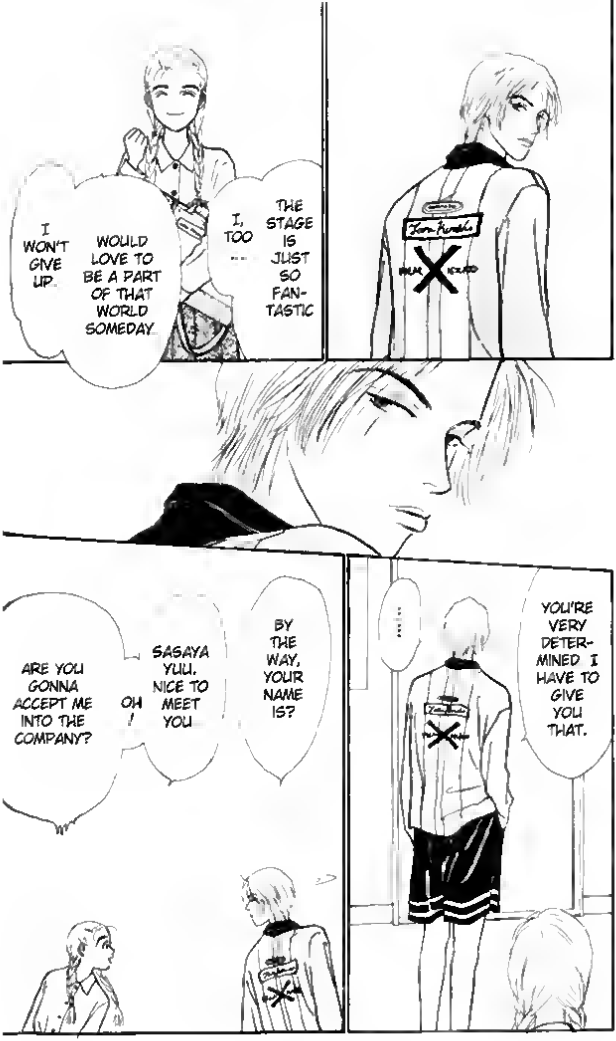
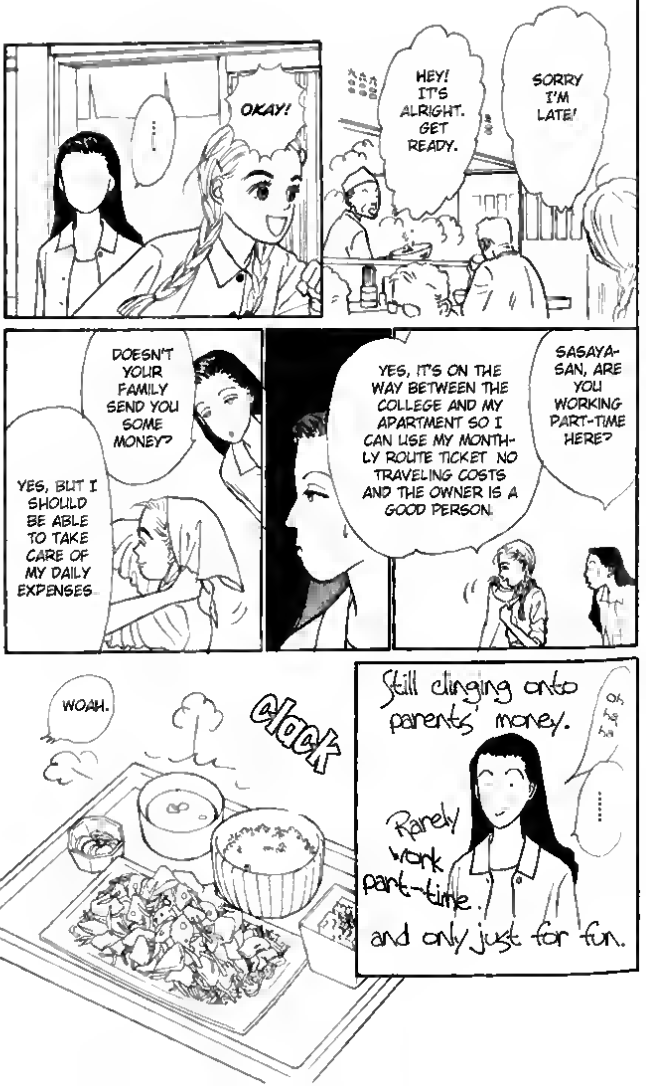
THEY WON'T LISTEN TO THAT KIND OF EXCUSE!
HOW STRICT.
IF WORD GETS OUT, IT'S GONNA BE A LOT OF TROUBLE
OH
I WON'T TELL ANY-ONE DON'T WORRY
MY LIPS ARE SEALED.
EXECUTION
Okay
YOU KEEP THAT PROMISE
But how can one trust a woman!
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT I SAW A PLAY


I WON'T GIVE UP.
WOULD LOVE TO BE A PART OF THAT WORLD SOMEDAY
I, TOO ...
THE STAGE IS JUST SO FAN-TASTIC
YOU'RE VERY DETER-MINED I HAVE TO GIVE YOU THAT.
BY THE WAY, YOUR NAME IS?
OH!
SASAYA YUU. NICE TO MEET YOU
ARE YOU GONNA ACCEPT ME INTO THE COMPANY?

YES
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING I CAN WRITE ON?
DON'T KID AROUND, I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF AUTHORITY I'M A ROOKIE HERE MYSELF
Yes, I'd love to!!
IT'S A SMALL COMPANY, A MINOR ONE, BUT POWERFUL IN SPIRIT WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE IT A TRY?
THIS IS MY SENPAI'S TROUPE. HE SAID IT STILL LACKS FEMALE MEMBERS.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

YOU SCARED ME
WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT WITH TOUYA-SAN?
"GARAN DOU COMPANY"
WHAT IS THAT?
HE RECOMMENDED ME TO HIS FRIEND'S TROUPE
TOUYA-SAN RECOMMENDED YOU!!?
WHY THE HECK DID HE DO THAT !!?
TELL ME, WHAT KIND OF DIRTY TRICK DID YOU PLAY ON HIM!? I CAN'T BELIEVE I UNDERESTIMATED THAT INNOCENT FACE OF YOURS!
Gahh
uhh
Y-YOSHISAWA-SAN


OKAY!
HEY! IT'S ALRIGHT. GET READY.
SORRY I'M LATE!
DOESN'T YOUR FAMILY SEND YOU SOME MONEY?
YES, BUT I SHOULD BE able TO TAKE CARE OF MY DAILY EXPENSES
YES, IT'S ON THE WAY BETWEEN THE COLLEGE AND MY APARTMENT SO I CAN USE MY MONTHLY ROUTE TICKET NO TRAVELING COSTS AND THE OWNER IS A GOOD PERSON.
SASAYA-SAN, ARE YOU WORKING PART-TIME HERE?
WOAH.
@lack
Still clinging onto parents' money.
Rarely work part-time.
and only just for fun.

Irasshai mase* !!
LIVER AND SCALLION !?
I HEARD YOU ARE YUU-CHAN'S FRIEND FROM COLLEGE? DINNER IS ON ME OUR SPECIAL STIR-FRIED LIVER AND SCALLION
EH?
*IRASSHAIMASE = WELCOME (IN SHOPS)
BUT THE TASTE'S GOOD
WELL
I don't believe it
WHY DO I HAVE TO STAY AND EAT LIVER AND SCALLION IN THIS KIND OF PLACE?

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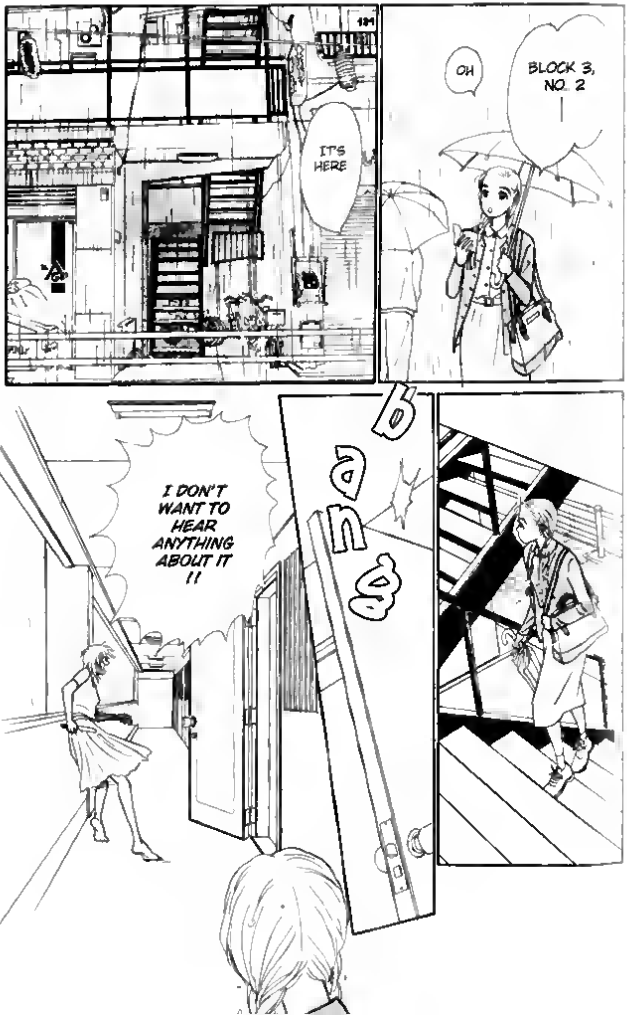
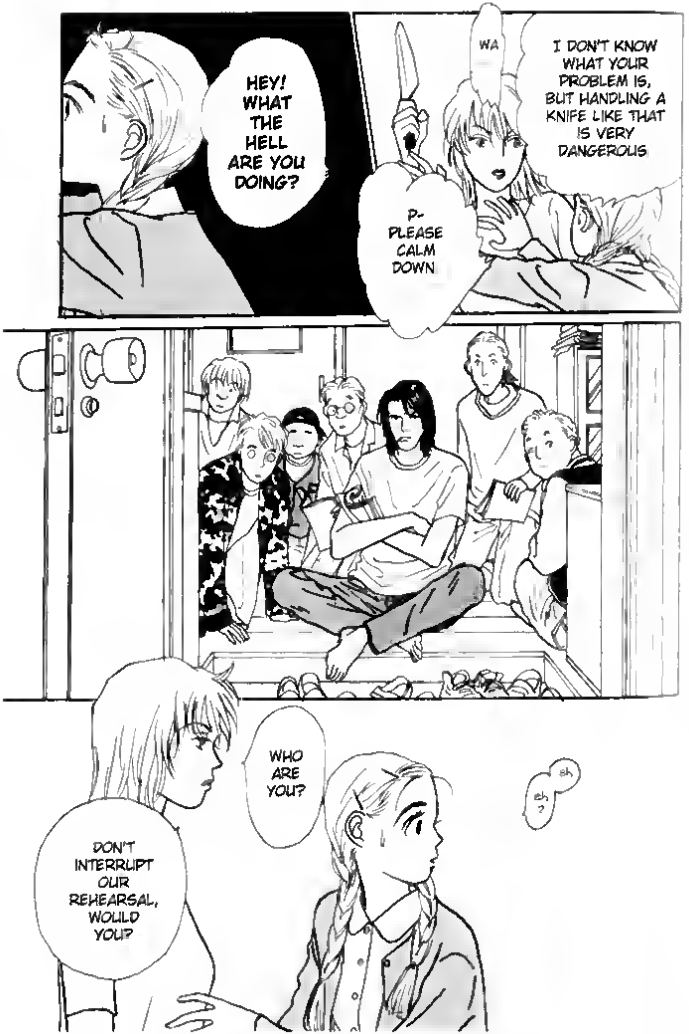


WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT TO SAY, IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE !!
I'VE
HAD ENOUGH
WAHH !
WAIT! WAIT !!


HEY! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
WA
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, BUT HANDLING A KNIFE LIKE THAT IS VERY DANGEROUS
P-PLEASE CALM DOWN
WHO ARE YOU?
eh
eh, ?
DON'T INTERRUPT OUR REHEARSAL, WOULD YOU?

COULD IT BE
GARANDOU COMPANY?
RE-HEARSAL...?
EH?
MAY BE...
HMM?
HE TOLD YOU TO COME HERE?
DEFINITELY HIS STINKY HANDWRITING.
So messy
ICHII TOLIYA RECOMMENDED YOU?

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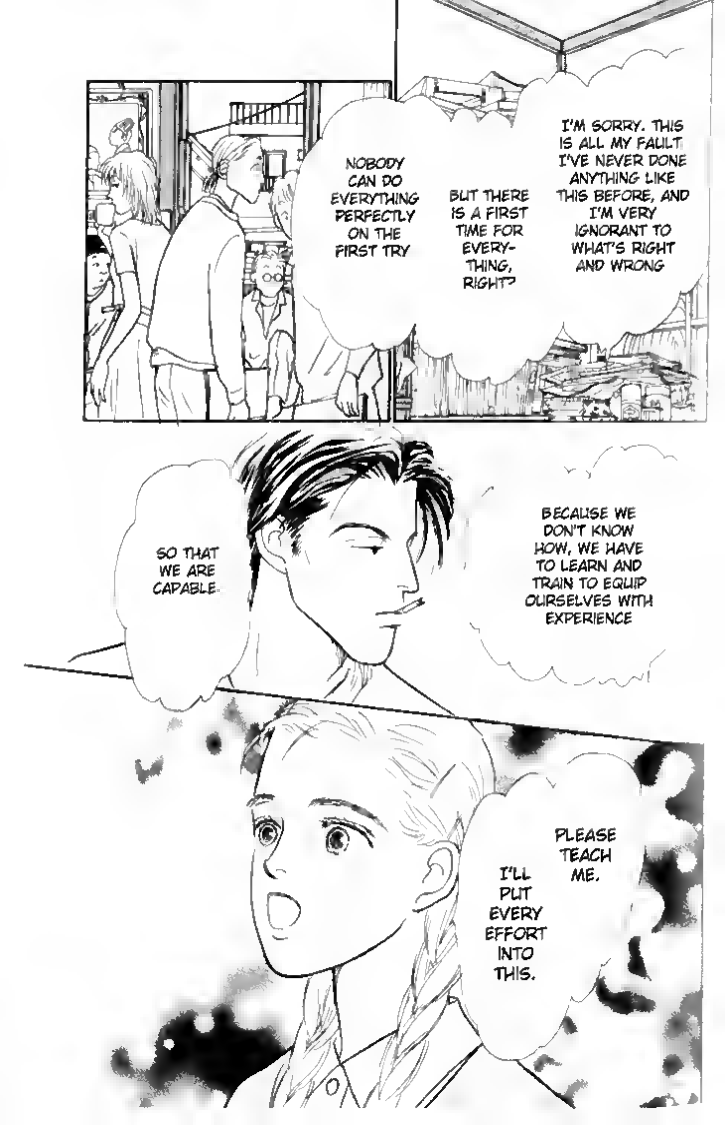
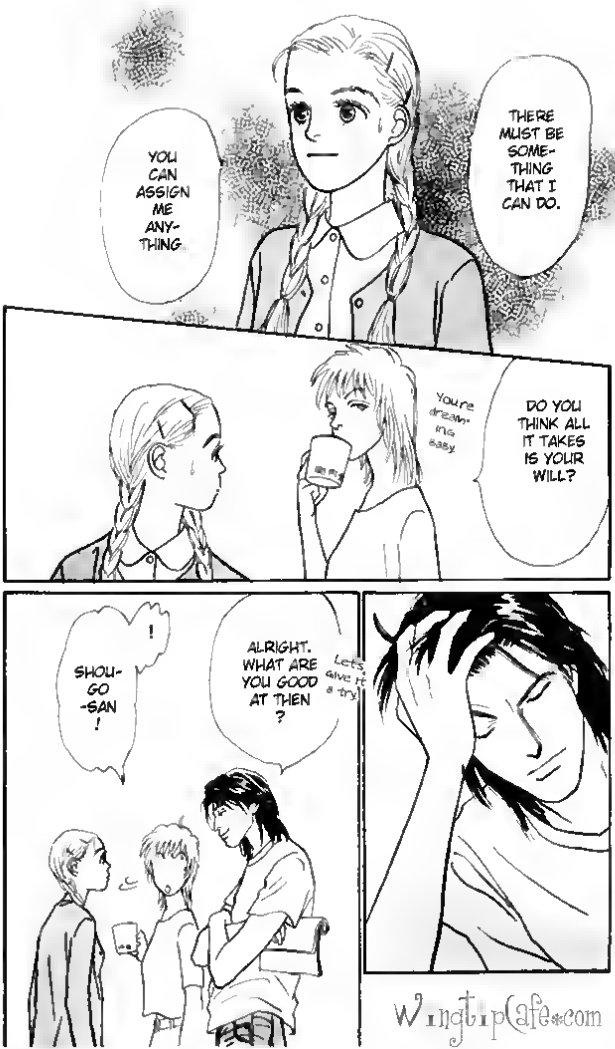
Snatch
"Ahhhh, who ate Tet-chan's cake?"
Gu
Wait
OKAY
WAIT .. HONEY, THIS IS NOT RECITING FROM A TEXTBOOK, YOU KNOW IT'S A DRAMA SCRIPT
Get a grip of yourself
sob
sob
sob
sob
sob
OKAY!
GIVE ME THE EXPRESSION OF A GIRL WHO HAS JUST BEEN DUMPED BY HER BOY-FRIEND.
ENOUGH WITH SCRIPT READING NOW YOUR ACTING
Yeah !!
AND WHEN THE BOY-FRIEND WANTS TO GET BACK TOGETHER

Is that Damned Touya out of his fucking mind!?
BAN
I know we are a tiny no-name troupe, but how could he recommend me a complete amateur!!?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
UH... ERR...
Lousy!
Worse than an amateur!
WORSE THAN AN AMATEUR!!
RECOMMENDED BY TOUYA-SAN. I WAS EXPECTING MORE!

DAMNIT, TOUYA!! I'M GONNA BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF YOU
You got my hopes up!
RECOMMENDED BY TOUYA MY ASS
P-
PLEASE WAIT!
Damnit!
He did say we're a tasty tiny troupe didn't he?
HE SAID THIS TROUPE MAY BE SMALL BUT IS VERY POWERFUL IN SPIRIT
TOUYA-SAN RECOMMENDED ME OUT OF HIS KINDNESS
BECAUSE HE SAW MY DETERMINATION


I'M SORRY. THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE, AND I'M VERY IGNORANT TO WHAT'S RIGHT AND WRONG
BUT THERE IS A FIRST TIME FOR EVERY-THING, RIGHT?
NOBODY CAN DO EVERYTHING PERFECTLY ON THE FIRST TRY
BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW HOW, WE HAVE TO LEARN AND TRAIN TO EQUIP OURSELVES WITH EXPERIENCE
SO THAT WE ARE CAPABLE
PLEASE TEACH ME.
I'LL PUT EVERY EFFORT INTO THIS.


THERE MUST BE SOME-THING THAT I CAN DO.
YOU CAN ASSIGN ME ANY-THING
DO YOU THINK ALL IT TAKES IS YOUR WILL?
You're dreamin' ing easy
ALRIGHT. WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT THEN ?
Let's give it a try!
SHOU-GO -SAN !
!

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OH
I AM VERY GOOD AT MAKING CURRY!
I'm proud of that
WELL, LET'S CALL IT A DAY.
WE CERTAINLY CAN'T PRACTICE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS
MONEY IS A BIG PROBLEM, MY FRIEND A BIG PROBLEM
IT'S RAINING. WE CAN'T DO IT IN THE PARK LIKE WE USUALLY DO
well
WE NEED A THEATRE TO DO A PROPER REHEARSAL
idiot

NORMALLY WE'LL MEET UP AT THE PARK 10 MINUTES FROM HERE,
BUT TODAY IT'S RAINING.
UHH
THE SHOW IS NEXT MONTH, SO RIGHT NOW EVERYONE IS DEAD SERIOUS ABOUT IT.
OH,
IM TAIRA HITOSHI
I'M SASAYA YUU.
THAT PERSON IS THE HEAD OF GARANDOU COMPANY, SHIMAMURA SHOUGO
THEY PROBABLY WON'T ACCEPT ME INTO THE COMPANY EITHER, RIGHT?
AND THAT GIRL SHE IS STILL YOUNG BUT VERY TALENTED
TAKATSUKI MIZORE

CAN I REALLY GO THERE ?
BE MY GUEST.
Who cares. It's a public park.
AS LONG AS SHIMAMURA-SAN DOESN'T YELL 'GET THE HELL OUT!', THEN YOU'RE FINE.
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO JOIN OUR TROUPE, YOU SHOULD COME SEE US DURING REHEARSALS. IF THE WEATHER PERMITS, WE'LL BE AT THE PARK.
Right! It's a park
GRANNY, THE PATH TO THE THEATRE WORLD SEEMS PRETTY ROUGH RIGHT FROM THE START

[Ashita no Ousama] Unit 1 - END

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明日の王様
UNIT 2

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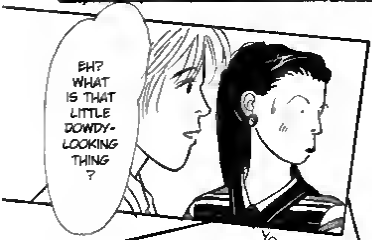
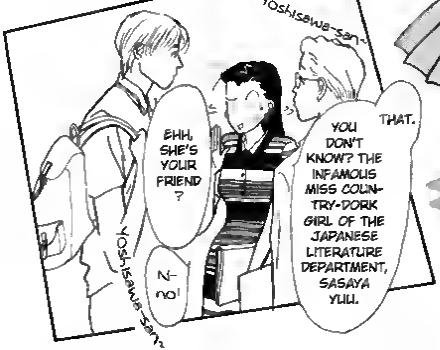
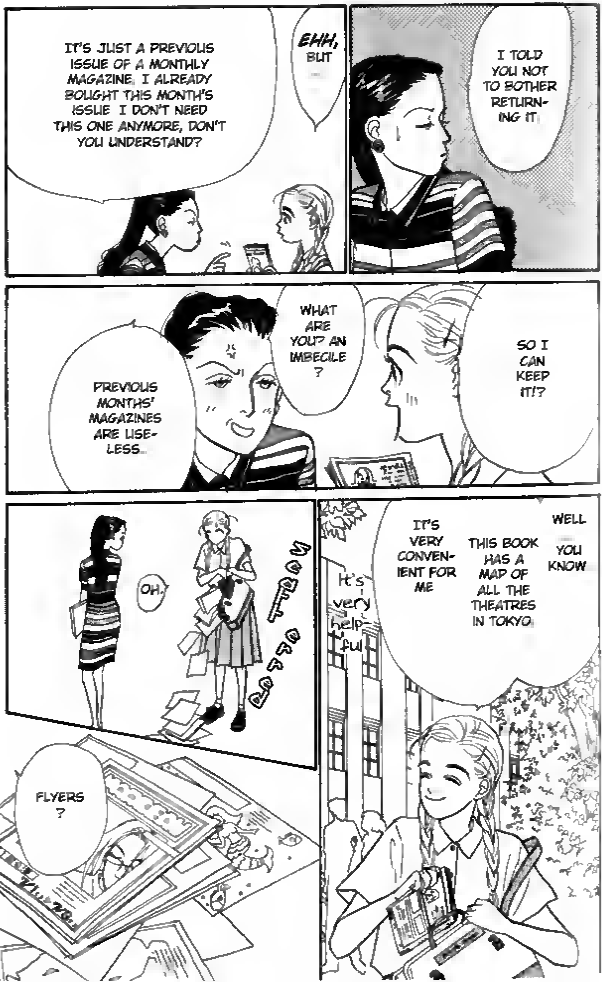
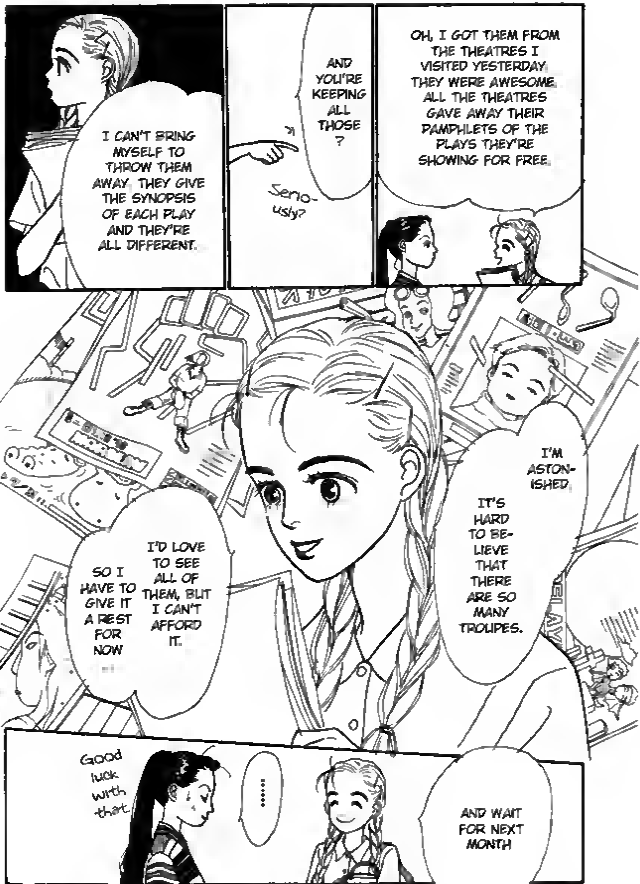
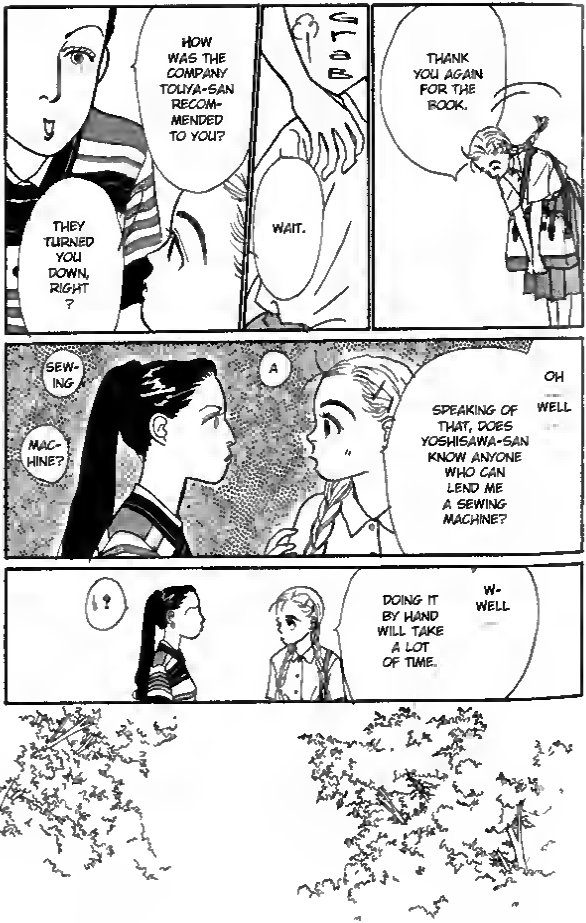



YOSHISAWA-SAN.
EHH, SHE'S YOUR FRIEND ?
YOSHISAWA-SAN?
N-no!
YOU DON'T KNOW? THE INFAMOUS MISS COUNTRY-DORK GIRL OF THE JAPANESE LITERATURE DEPARTMENT, SASAYA YUU.
THAT.

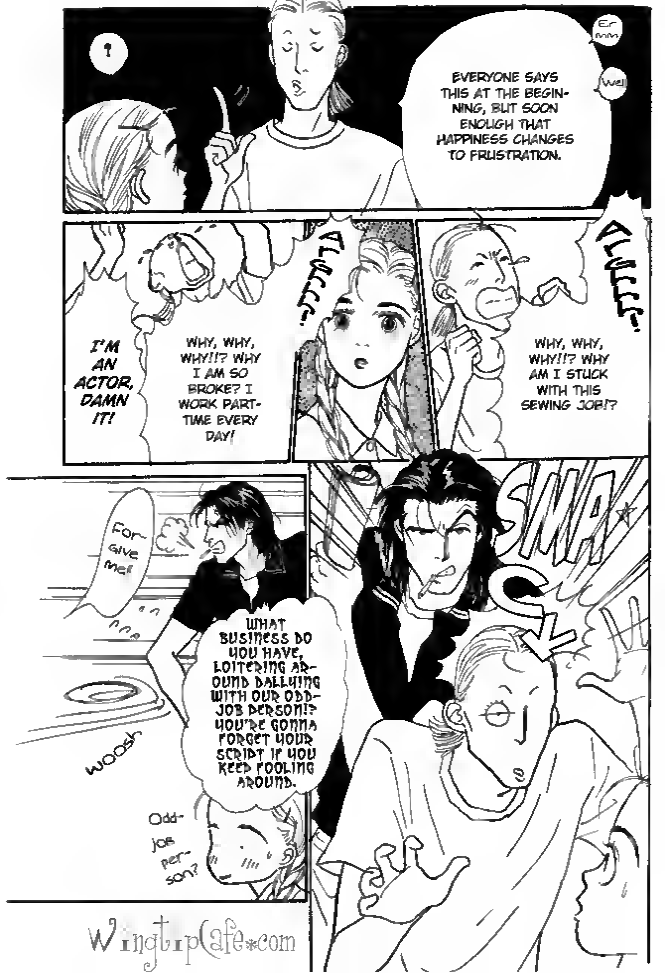
15-CENTI-METRE BELOW-KNEE-LENGTH PLEATED SKIRT.
SCHOOL-GIRL'S BLACK SHOES, 3-FOLDED WHITE SOCKS.
CRISPLY-IRONED BLOUSE
UHH...
WORST OF ALL ARE THE PIGGY TAIL BRAIDS ADORNED WITH BLACK HAIR PINS.
YOSHI-SAWA-SAN, HERE IS THE BOOK I BOR-ROWED FROM YOU.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR KIND-NESS
I can't believe I befriended this girl
THE LIST COULD GO ON AND ON...
PLUS THAT INNO-CENT-LOOKING FACE.


IT'S JUST A PREVIOUS ISSUE OF A MONTHLY MAGAZINE. I ALREADY BOUGHT THIS MONTH'S ISSUE. I DON'T NEED THIS ONE ANYMORE, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
EHH, BUT...
I TOLD YOU NOT TO BOTHER RETURNING IT!
PREVIOUS MONTHS' MAGAZINES ARE USELESS...
WHAT ARE YOU? AN IMBECILE?
SO I CAN KEEP IT!?
WELL, BYE
OH.
IT'S VERY CONVENIENT FOR ME
THIS BOOK HAS A MAP OF ALL THE THEATRES IN TOKYO.
WELL YOU KNOW
It's very helpful
FLYERS?


I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO THROW THEM AWAY. THEY GIVE THE SYNOPSIS OF EACH PLAY AND THEY'RE ALL DIFFERENT.
AND YOU'RE KEEPING ALL THOSE ?
Serio-usly?
OH, I GOT THEM FROM THE THEATRES I VISITED YESTERDAY. THEY WERE AWESOME. ALL THE THEATRES GAVE AWAY THEIR PAMPHLETS OF THE PLAYS THEY'RE SHOWING FOR FREE.
I'M ASTON-ISHED.
IT'S HARD TO BE-LIEVE THAT THERE ARE SO MANY TROUPES.
I'D LOVE TO SEE ALL OF THEM, BUT I CAN'T AFFORD IT.
SO I HAVE TO GIVE IT A REST FOR NOW
Good luck with that.
.....
AND WAIT FOR NEXT MONTH


HOW WAS THE COMPANY TOUYA-SAN RECOMMENDED TO YOU?
THEY TURNED YOU DOWN, RIGHT?
WAIT.
THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE BOOK.
SEWING MACHINE?
A
SPEAKING OF THAT, DOES YOSHISAWA-SAN KNOW ANYONE WHO CAN LEND ME A SEWING MACHINE?
OH WELL
!?
DOING IT BY HAND WILL TAKE A LOT OF TIME.
W-WELL

OH!
YOU'VE MADE A LOT OF PROGRESS.
SORRY TO MAKE YOU HELP WITH THE COSTUMES. THE PERSON IN CHARGE IS TOO SWAMPED TO PAY ATTENTION TO TRIVIAL DETAILS.
THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH.
NOT EVEN HALF OF IT. AND MY STITCHES ARE CROOKED.
BESIDES, I GET TO SEE THE REHEARSALS VERY ENJOYABLE.
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU ALLOWED ME TO BE A PART OF THE TROUPE
NOT AT ALL.


?
Er, hmm.
Well
EVERYONE SAYS THIS AT THE BEGINNING, BUT SOON ENOUGH THAT HAPPINESS CHANGES TO FRUSTRATION.
I'M AN ACTOR, DAMN IT!
WHY, WHY, WHY!!? WHY I AM SO BROKE? I WORK PART-TIME EVERY DAY!
グスン...
WHY, WHY, WHY!!? WHY AM I STUCK WITH THIS SEWING JOB!?
グレェェ...
SWAP
Forgive me!
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE, LOITERING AROUND BALLYING WITH OUR ODD-JOB PERSON!? YOU'RE GONNA FORGET YOUR SCRIPT IF YOU KEEP FOOLING AROUND.
WOOSH
Odd-job person?

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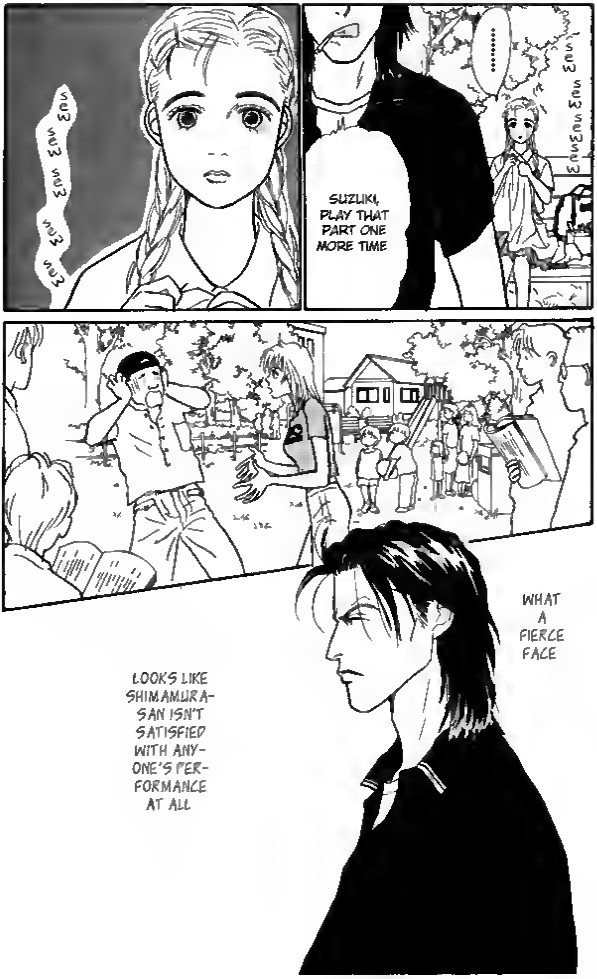
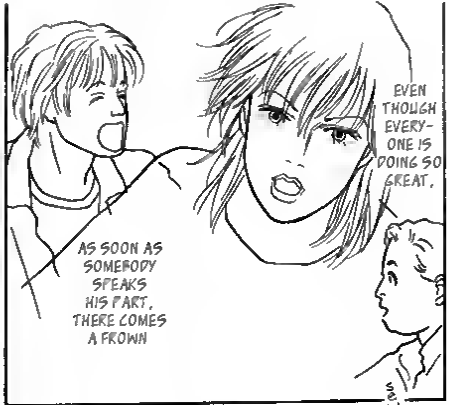
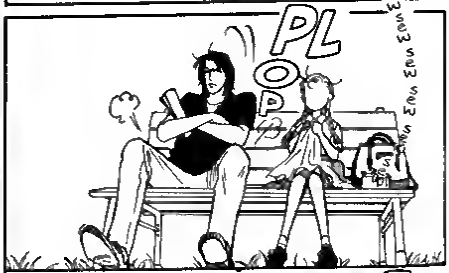
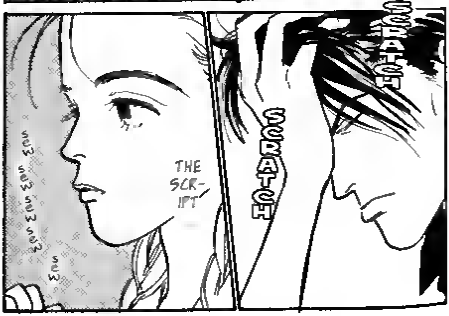

SUZUKI, PLAY THAT PART ONE MORE TIME
LOOKS LIKE SHIMAMURA-SAN ISN'T SATISFIED WITH ANY-ONE'S PER-FORMANCE AT ALL
WHAT A FIERCE FACE







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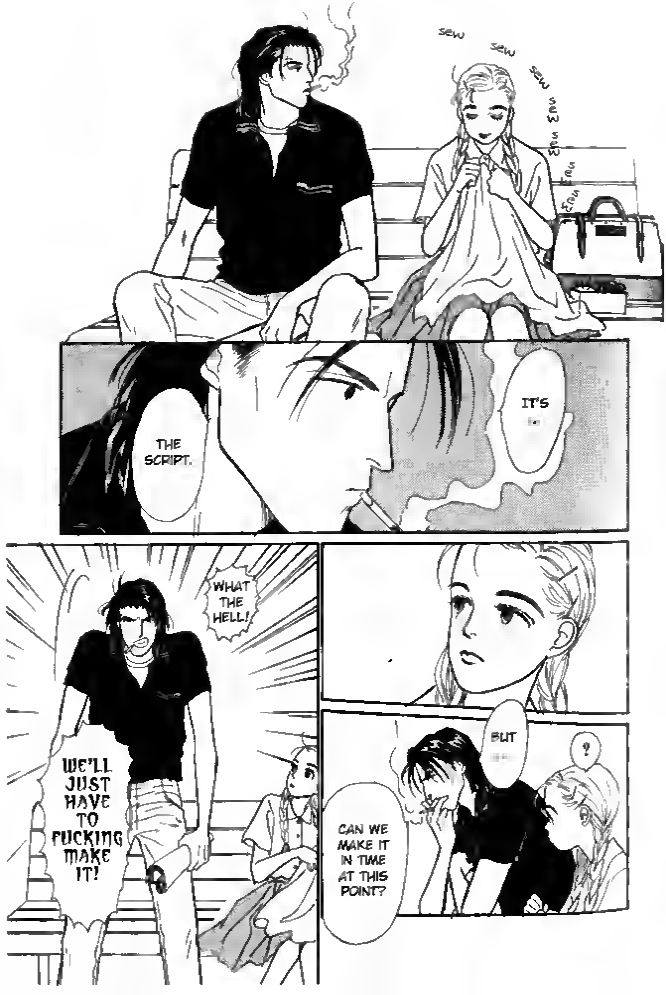
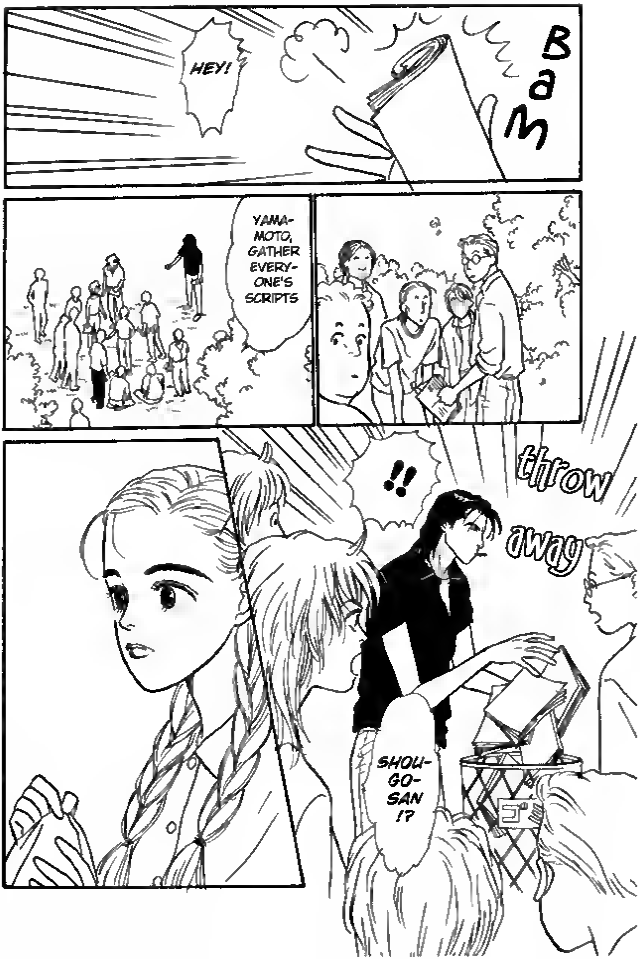
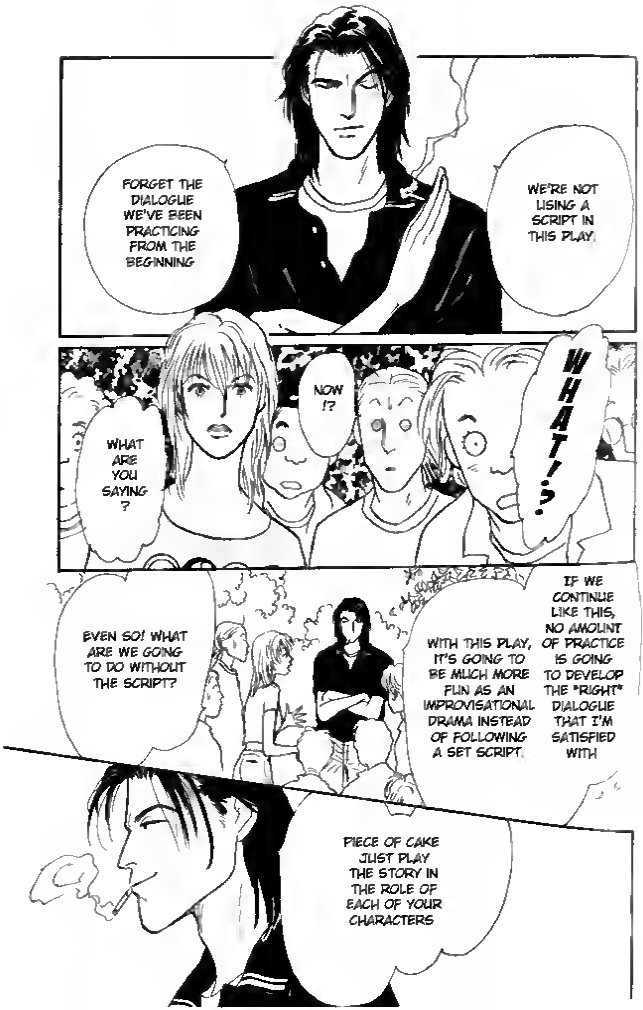
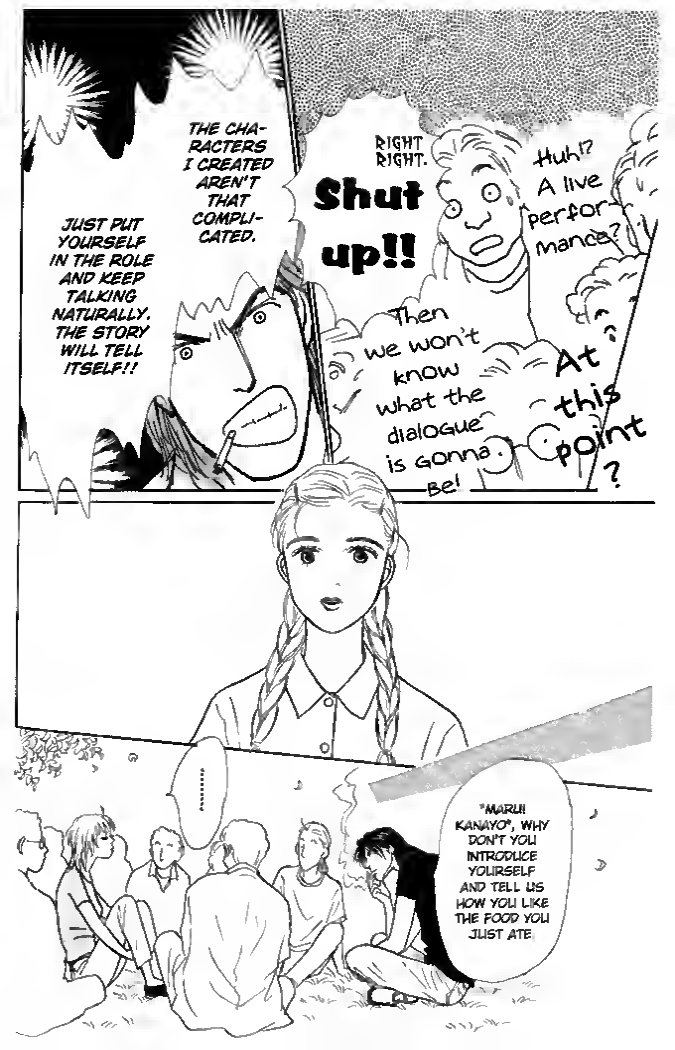
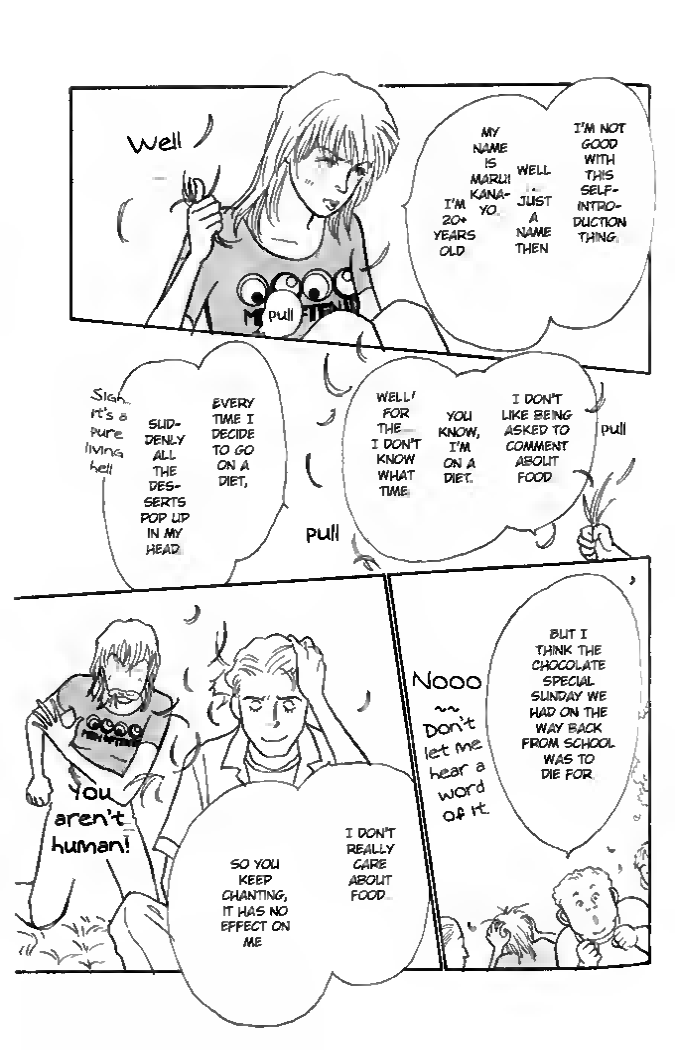
DRAMA SCRIPTS ARE VERY UNIQUE.
I'VE SEEN PLAYS OF ONLY 8 TROUPES SO FAR.
ON STAGE, EVERYONE SPEAKS IN DIFFERENT STYLES
WHAT TAIRA-SAN SAID TO ME JUST NOW, I NOTICED THAT IT WAS HIS NORMAL WAY OF SPEAKING.
BUT WHEN HE'S ON STAGE, HE BECOMES ANOTHER PERSON.
AMAZING.


SEW
SEW
SEW
SEW
SEW
SEW
SEW
THE SCRIPT.
IT'S
...
WHAT THE HELL!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FUCKING MAKE IT!
CAN WE MAKE IT IN TIME AT THIS POINT?
BUT
...
?

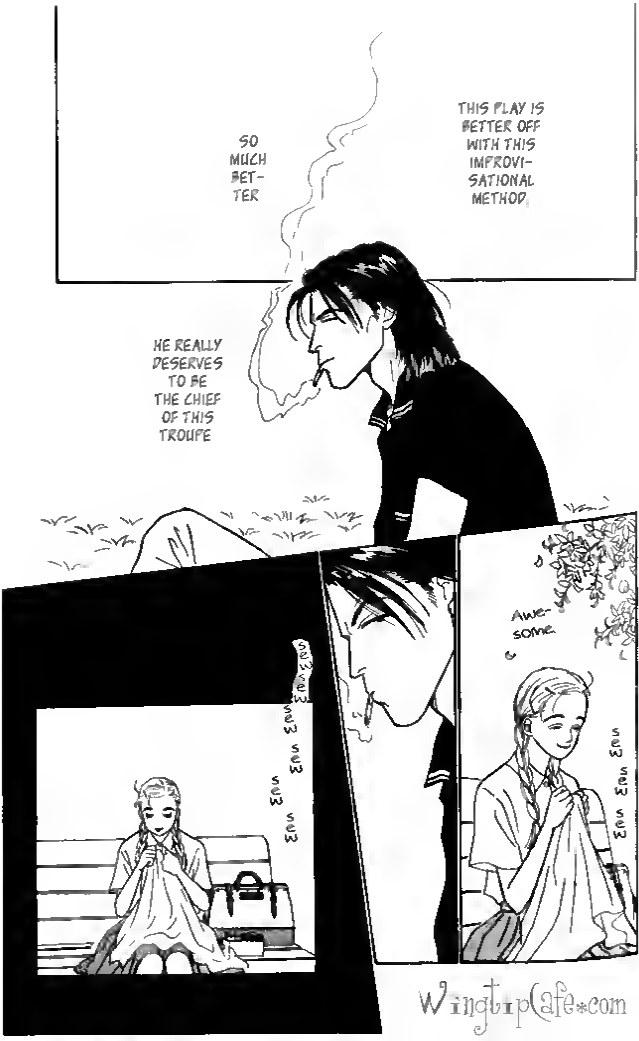

HEY!
Bam
YAMA-MOTO, GATHER EVERY-ONE'S SCRIPTS
!!
throw away
SHOU-GO-SAN !?


FORGET THE DIALOGUE WE'VE BEEN PRACTICING FROM THE BEGINNING
WE'RE NOT USING A SCRIPT IN THIS PLAY.
WHAT!?
NOW!?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
IF WE CONTINUE LIKE THIS, NO AMOUNT OF PRACTICE IS GOING TO DEVELOP THE "RIGHT" DIALOGUE THAT I'M SATISFIED WITH
WITH THIS PLAY, IT'S GOING TO BE MUCH MORE FUN AS AN IMPROVISATIONAL DRAMA INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING A SET SCRIPT.
EVEN SO! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITHOUT THE SCRIPT?
PIECE OF CAKE JUST PLAY THE STORY IN THE ROLE OF EACH OF YOUR CHARACTERS


THE CHARACTERS I CREATED AREN'T THAT COMPLICATED.
JUST PUT YOURSELF IN THE ROLE AND KEEP TALKING NATURALLY. THE STORY WILL TELL ITSELF!!
RIGHT. RIGHT.
Shut up!!
Huh!? A live performance?
Then we won't know what the dialogue is gonna be!
At this point?
"MARU! KANAYO", WHY DON'T YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND TELL US HOW YOU LIKE THE FOOD YOU JUST ATE
.....


Well
pull
MY NAME IS MARU! KANAYO. I'M 20+ YEARS OLD
WELL... JUST A NAME THEN
I'M NOT GOOD WITH THIS SELF-INTRODUCTION THING.
pull
WELL! FOR THE— I DON'T KNOW WHAT TIME
YOU KNOW, I'M ON A DIET.
I DON'T LIKE BEING ASKED TO COMMENT ABOUT FOOD
pull
Sigh. It's a pure living hell
SUDDENLY ALL THE DESSERTS POP UP IN MY HEAD.
EVERY TIME I DECIDE TO GO ON A DIET,
pull
Nooo ~~ Don't let me hear a word of it
BUT I THINK THE CHOCOLATE SPECIAL SUNDAY WE HAD ON THE WAY BACK FROM SCHOOL WAS TO DIE FOR.
You aren't human!
SO YOU KEEP CHANTING, IT HAS NO EFFECT ON ME
I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT FOOD

INCREDIBLE.
EVERY ONE FELL INTO THEIR OWN ROLES
AND TOOK THEIR CUES FROM ONE ANOTHER.
RIGHT.


THIS PLAY IS BETTER OFF WITH THIS IMPROVI-SATIONAL METHOD
SO MUCH BET-TER
HE REALLY DESERVES TO BE THE CHIEF OF THIS TROUPE
Awe-some
sw3 sw3 sw3
sw3 sw3 sw3
sw3 sw3 sw3
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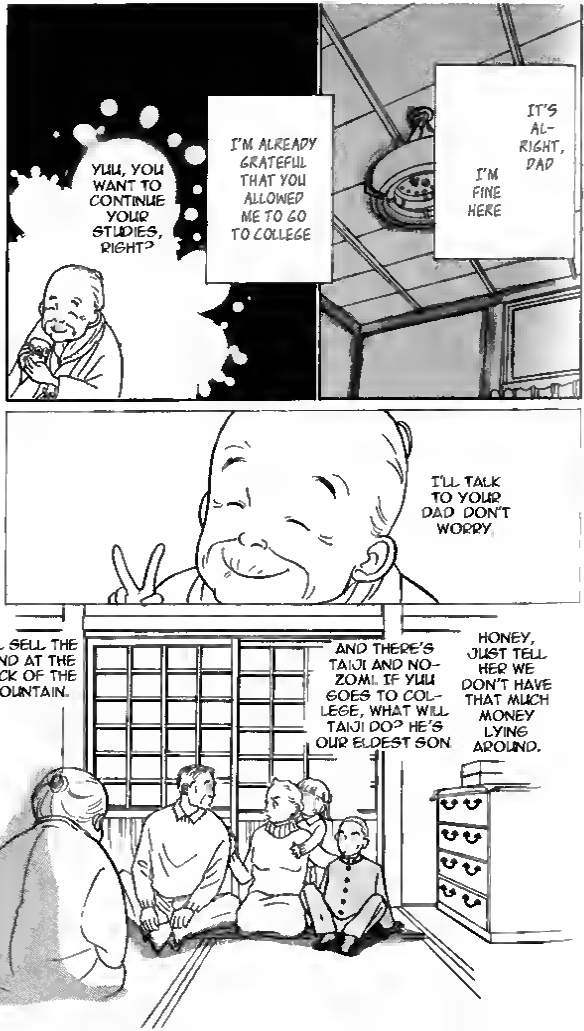
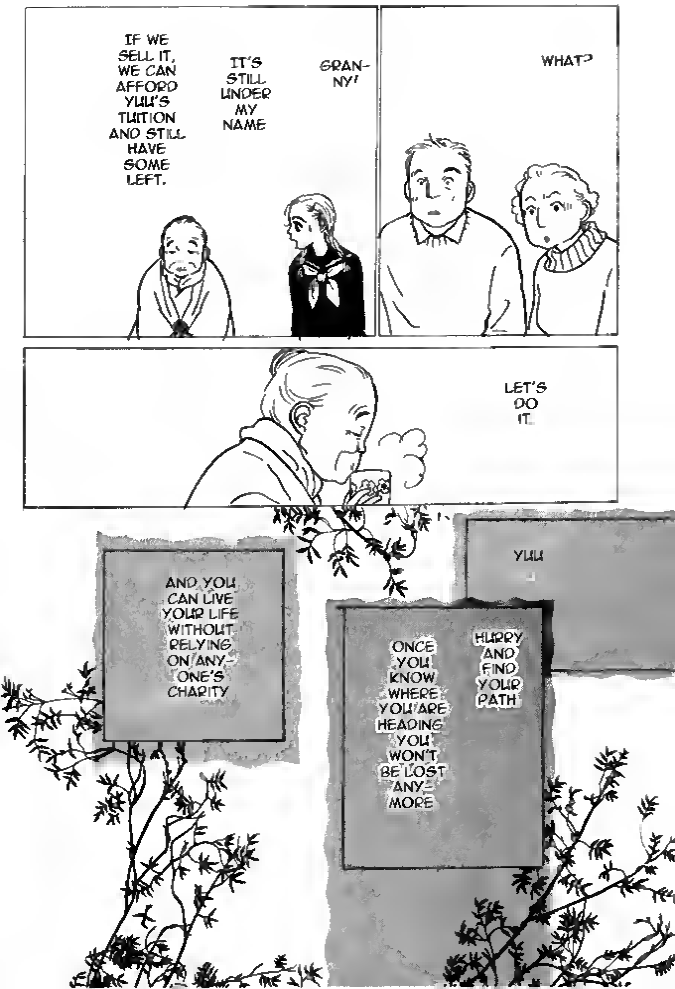
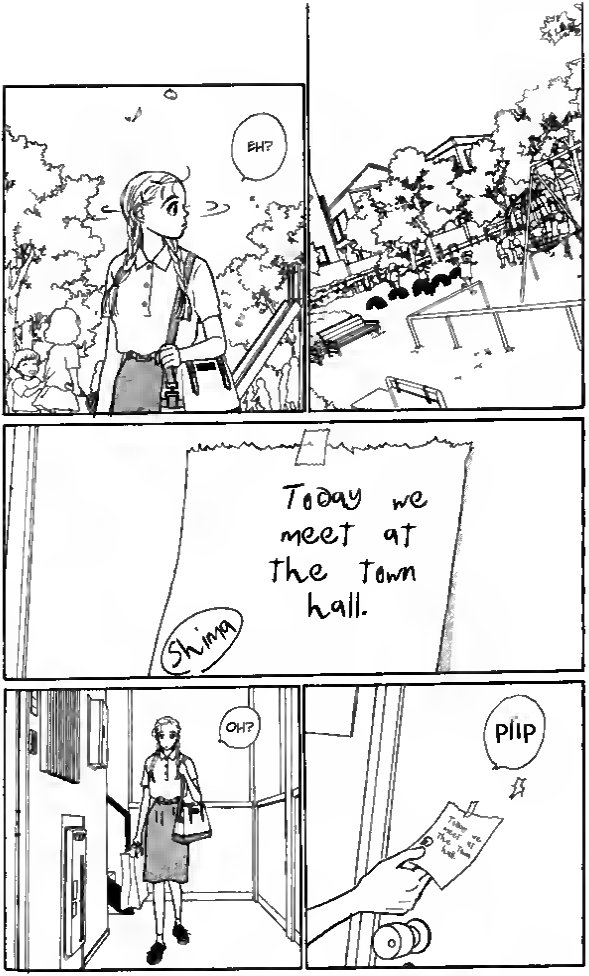
I CAN AFFORD TO SEND MY DAUGHTER A LITTLE BIT MORE
YOU MUST TELL ME IF IT'S NOT ENOUGH
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN SURVIVE WITH THAT AMOUNT OF MONEY?
I TRANSFERED YOU SOME FUNDS VIA THE POSTAL SYSTEM AS USUAL
YUU
HOW ARE YOU?
DON'T BE SHY
FAP


YUU, YOU WANT TO CONTINUE YOUR STUDIES, RIGHT?
I'M ALREADY GRATEFUL THAT YOU ALLOWED ME TO GO TO COLLEGE
IT'S ALRIGHT, DAD
I'M FINE HERE
I'LL TALK TO YOUR DAD DON'T WORRY
I'LL SELL THE LAND AT THE BACK OF THE MOUNTAIN.
AND THERE'S TAIJI AND NOZOMI. IF YUU GOES TO COLLEGE, WHAT WILL TAIJI DO? HE'S OUR ELDEST SON.
HONEY, JUST TELL HER WE DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH MONEY LYING AROUND.


IF WE SELL IT, WE CAN AFFORD YUU'S TUITION AND STILL HAVE SOME LEFT.
IT'S STILL UNDER MY NAME
GRAN-NY!
WHAT?
LET'S DO IT.
AND YOU CAN LIVE YOUR LIFE WITHOUT RELYING ON ANY-ONE'S CHARITY
YUU
ONCE YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE HEADING YOU WON'T BE LOST ANY-MORE
HURRY AND FIND YOUR PATH

I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT RELYING ON SOMEONE'S CHARITY.
THOUGH IN DAD AND EVERY-ONE'S EYES
I MUST SEEM LIKE AN INSUF-FERABLE, DISO-BEDIENT CHILD.



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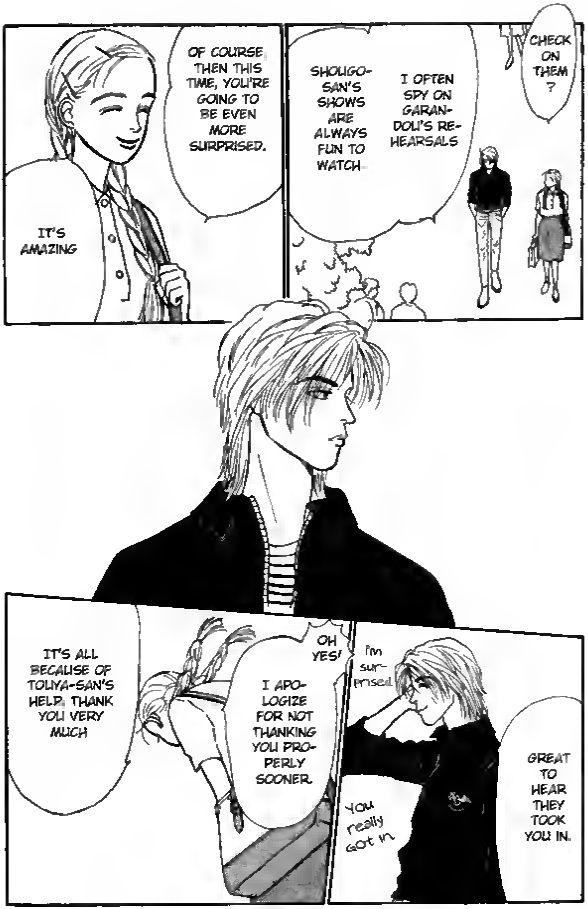
MAYBE THIS NOTE IS MEANT FOR YOU
SORRY FOR ASKING YOU TO COME ALONG.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS
I WANT TO GO THERE AND CHECK ON THEM MYSELF ANYWAY.


IT'S AMAZING
OF COURSE. THEN THIS TIME, YOU'RE GOING TO BE EVEN MORE SURPRISED.
SHOUGO-SAN'S SHOWS ARE ALWAYS FUN TO WATCH.
I OFTEN SPY ON GARANDOLI'S REHEARSALS
CHECK ON THEM?
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF TOLIYA-SAN'S HELP. THANK YOU VERY MUCH
OH YES!
I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT THANKING YOU PROPERLY SOONER.
I'm surprised
YOU really got in
GREAT TO HEAR THEY TOOK YOU IN.

THEN AT THE END, THEY CAUGHT ME OUT AS AN AMATEUR
IS THAT SO? WHEN EVERYONE HEARD THAT ICHII TOUYA SENT ME, THEY ALL CONJURED UP FALSE EXPECTATIONS OF ME
NAH
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO RECOMMENDED YOU. A NO IS A NO
UM
YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE LOOKS ON THEIR FACES...
WORSE THAN AN AMATEUR, ACTUALLY
I DON'T HAVE A PHONE.
HOW STRANGE. WHEN THEY CHANGED THE MEETING LOCATION, THEY SHOULD HAVE PHONED YOU.
HMM
OH, HERE WE ARE

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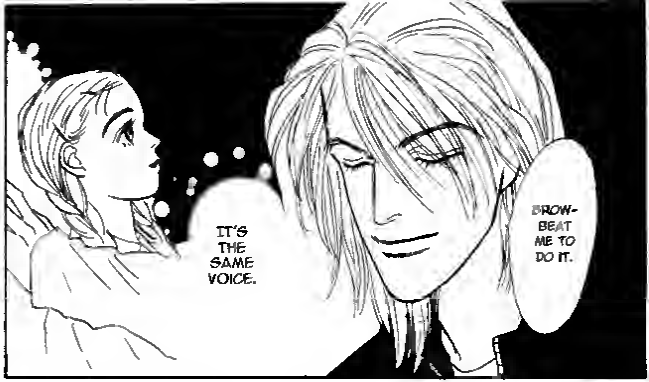
HAH
YOU'RE NOT SPEAKING LIKE GOROU
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
FOOD IS A HUMAN'S BASIC NECES-SITY
YOU'RE CRAZY
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR EATING HABITS.
Eh? You think?
Gorou is on the flip side of Tet-chan
He never craves for any-thing
EH?
NO SCRIPT? YOU CAN PERFORM A PLAY WITHOUT ONE?
AS YOU CAN SEE
AH, TOU-YA.
I didn't hear you com-ing.
IT SEEMS DIFFE-RENT FROM USUAL SOME-HOW

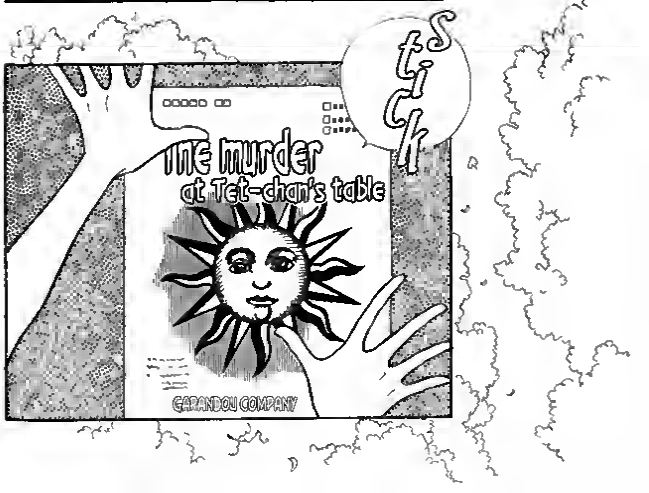
SEE?
I CAN'T EXPLAIN, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE A PERFECT CONVERSATION
THERE IS NO SCRIPTED DIALOGUE
HO HO
NO. NOT ME
COMING UP WITH SOMETHING UNCONVENTIONAL LIKE THIS
SHOUGO-SAN DID IT AGAIN
THE PERSON WHO GAVE ME THE IDEA
WAS THAT GIRL

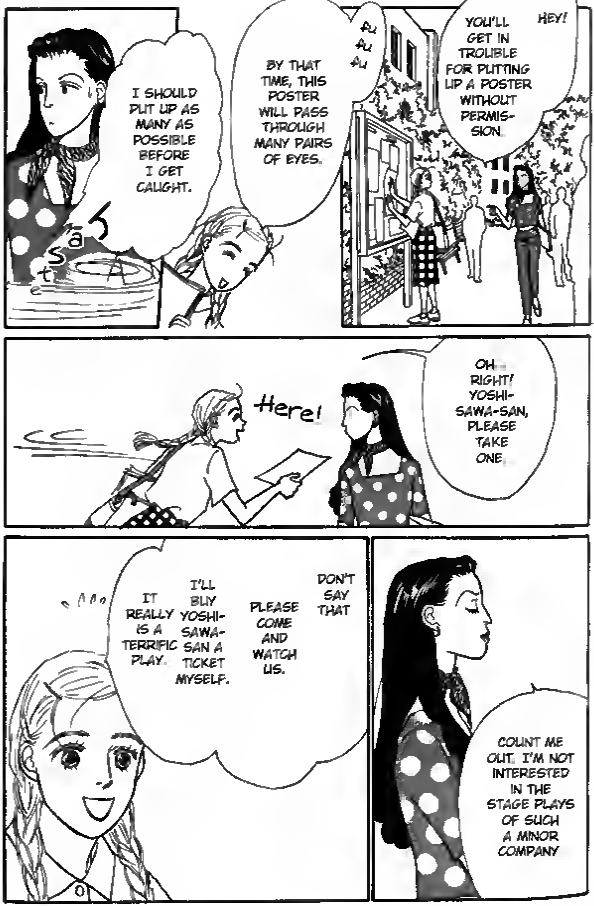
FINALLY, WE FOUND SOME GREAT DIALOGUE FOR THIS DRAMA.
I WAS HAVING A HARD TIME PINPOINTING WHERE IT DIDN'T FIT. THEN SHE MENTIONED SOMETHING AND IT GAVE ME A SPARK
STAY IN THE INDUSTRY TOO LONG AND YOU TEND TO OVERLOOK THE SIMPLE IDEAS.
WELL ...
CAN SHE BECOME AN ACTOR?
AN ACT-OR ?
ARE YOU SERI-OUS?
OH, YOU MUST HAVE NEVER HEARD THE WAY SHE READS A SCRIPT.
YOU SHOULD BE RES-PONSIBLE FOR GIVING ME FALSE HOPE
LET ME TELL YOU.
THAT GIRL CAN'T ACT FOR BEANS

BESIDES, YOU SAID IT YOURSELF THAT SHE CAN'T BE AN ACTOR THEN WHY ARE YOU KEEPING HER?
HOPEFULLY IT WASN'T BECAUSE YOU WERE DESPERATE FOR A MEMBER.
.....
SHOUGO-SAN WAS THE ONE WHO LET HER JOIN THE TROUPE THE MATTERS OF THE MEMBERS ARE THE TROUPE CHIEF'S RESPONSIBILITY.
HEY, COME ON.
BUT ...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S OUT OF YOUR CHARACTER
AND HOW ABOUT YOU? WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? GIVING OUT A RECOMMENDATION.
WELL SHE
THAT PROBABLY HITS MY SOFT SPOT.
SHE'S SUCH A COMPLETE FLOP.
INCREDIBLY NAIVE TO THE DRAMA WORLD.
HA HA HA HA HA HA


IT'S THE SAME VOICE.
BROW-BEAT ME TO DO IT.

YOU?
Brow-beat?


tick
THE murder
at Tet-chan's table
CARANDOU COMPANY


I SHOULD PUT UP AS MANY AS POSSIBLE BEFORE I GET CAUGHT.
BY THAT TIME, THIS POSTER WILL PASS THROUGH MANY PAIRS OF EYES.
PU PU PU
HEY!
YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE FOR PUTTING UP A POSTER WITHOUT PERMISSION.
Here!
OH RIGHT! YOSHI-SAWA-SAN, PLEASE TAKE ONE.
IT REALLY IS A TERRIFIC PLAY.
I'LL BUY YOSHI-SAWA-SAN A TICKET MYSELF.
PLEASE COME AND WATCH US.
DON'T SAY THAT
COUNT ME OUT. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THE STAGE PLAYS OF SUCH A MINOR COMPANY

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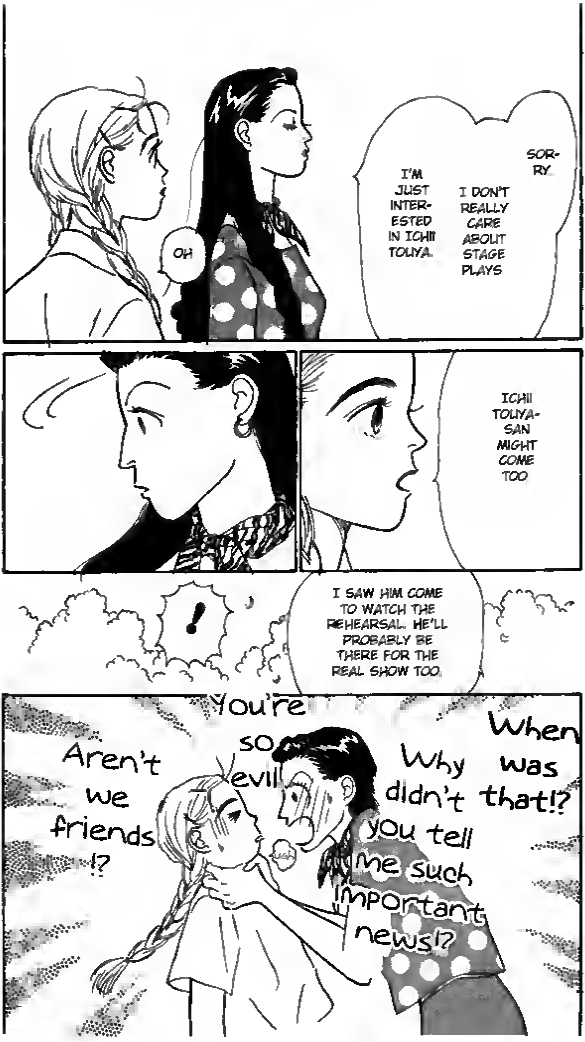
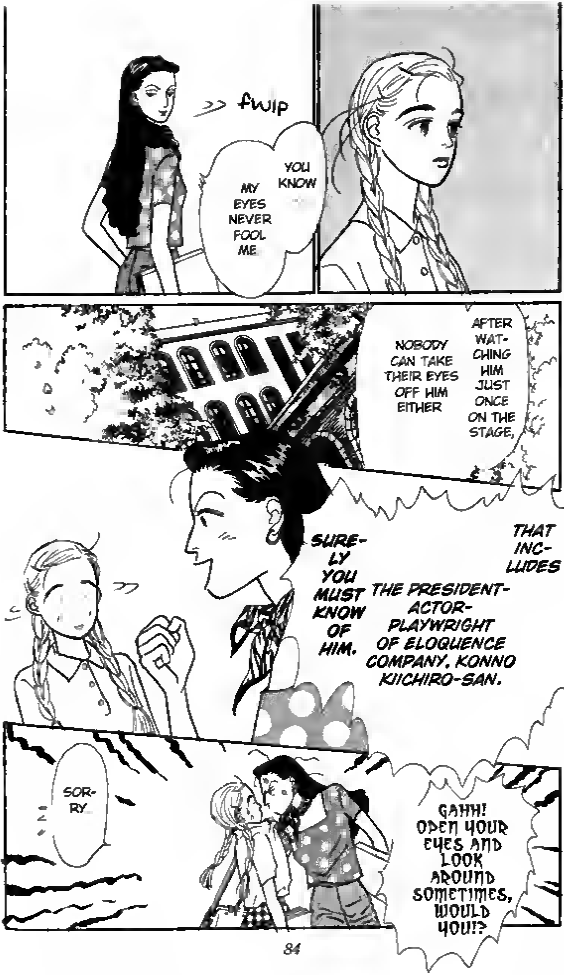

OH
I'M JUST INTERESTED IN ICHII TOUYA.
I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT STAGE PLAYS
SORRY.
ICHII TOUYA-SAN MIGHT COME TOO
!
I SAW HIM COME TO WATCH THE REHEARSAL. HE'LL PROBABLY BE THERE FOR THE REAL SHOW TOO.
Aren't we friends!?
You're so evil
Why didn't you tell me such important news!?
When was that!?

I ONLY WATCHED TOLYA-SAN ON STAGE ONCE WHEN I WENT TO S-COLLEGE.
AFTER THAT, I NEVER GOT TO SEE HIM PERFORM AGAIN BECAUSE WE WERE IN DIFFERENT YEARS
Ehhh
THE SWEET MEMORY OF THAT DRAMA...
Okay
Don't you under-stand?
WHAT KIND OF DRAMA WAS IT?
I CAN'T REMEM-BER A THING
.....
IT DOESN'T MATTER, YOU KNOW
ONCE TOLYA-SAN GOT ON STAGE,
I COULD NOT TAKE MY EYES OFF HIM.


>> flip
YOU KNOW MY EYES NEVER FOOL ME
AFTER WATCHING HIM JUST ONCE ON THE STAGE,
NOBODY CAN TAKE THEIR EYES OFF HIM EITHER
SURELY YOU MUST KNOW OF HIM.
THAT INCLUDES THE PRESIDENT-ACTOR-PLAYWRIGHT OF ELOQUENCE COMPANY, KONNO KIICHIRO-SAN.
SORRY
GAHH! OPEN YOUR EYES AND LOOK AROUND SOMETIMES, WOULD YOU!?

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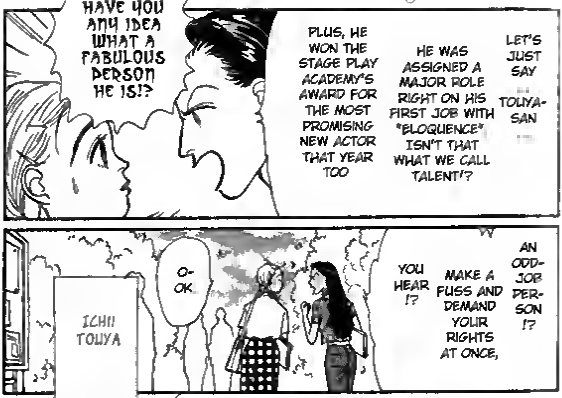
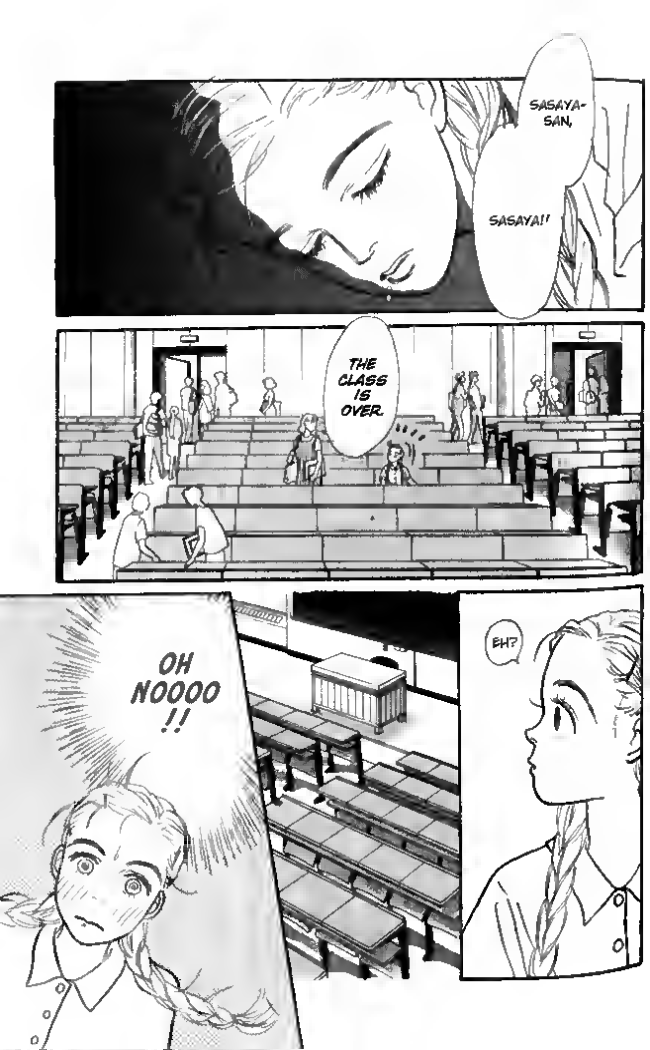

HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT A FABULOUS PERSON HE IS!?
PLUS, HE WON THE STAGE PLAY ACADEMY'S AWARD FOR THE MOST PROMISING NEW ACTOR THAT YEAR TOO
HE WAS ASSIGNED A MAJOR ROLE RIGHT ON HIS FIRST JOB WITH "ELOQUENCE" ISN'T THAT WHAT WE CALL TALENT!?
LET'S JUST SAY .. TOUYA-SAN ..
O-OK.
ICHII TOUYA
YOU HEAR !?
MAKE A FUSS AND DEMAND YOUR RIGHTS AT ONCE,
AN ODD-JOB PERSON !?

[Ashita no Ousama] UNIT 2 - End -

明日の王様
UNIT 3


SASAYA-SAN,
SASAYA!!
THE CLASS IS OVER.
EH?
OH NOOOO !!

GRANNY!
I'M SORRY HOW UN-GRATEFUL I AM
I THREW AWAY 2 HOURS OF HARD-EARNED TUITION IN VAIN
THE SHOW OPENS TOMOR-ROW
EVERY NIGHT I HAVE TO STAY UP LATE PREPARING ALL SORTS OF LITTLE THINGS,
PLUS THE REHEAR-SALS EVEN THOUGH I'M THERE JUST TO OBSERVE
OH,
HEY, WAIT.
ALL I CAN DO IS CHEER THEM ON
BUT IT GETS MORE INTENSE EVERY TIME.
YES!
ANY LEFT?
OF COURSE !!
ARE YOU SELLING TICKETS TOO?
WHO PUT UP POSTERS OF THAT PLAY ALL OVER THE COLLEGE?
AREN'T YOU THE ONE

THIS IS THE LAST ONE!!
WOW, SUCH A CROWD!
OUR FOUL-MOUTHED TROUPE CHIEF ONCE SAID "IF WE CAN'T FILL A THEATRE THIS SIZE, THERE'S NO POINT PERFORMING."
So this is good.

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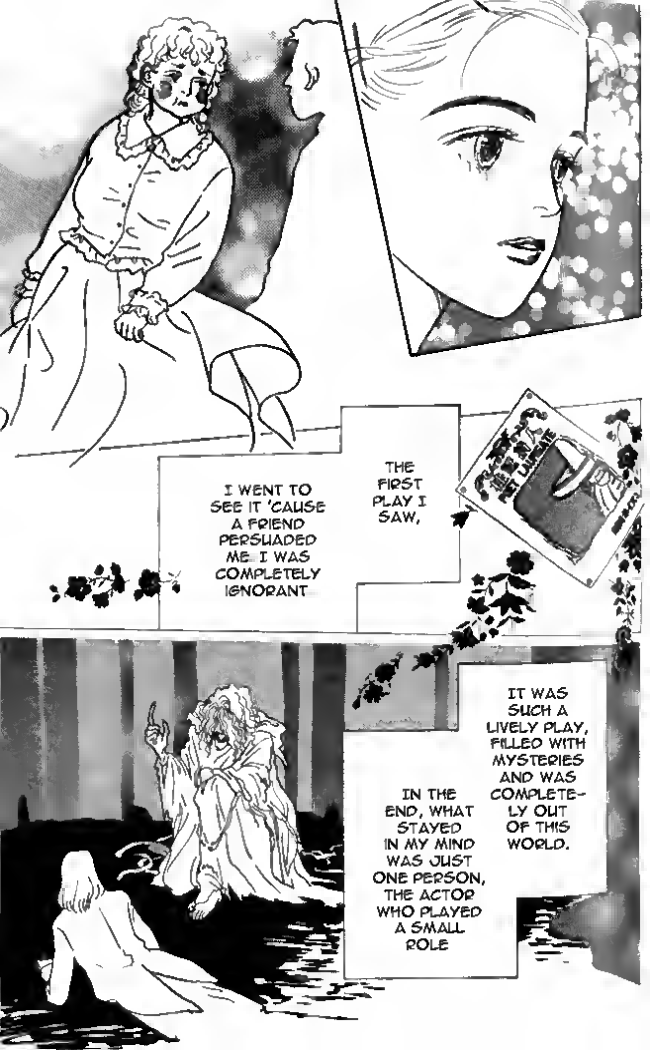
BANG
OH, SORRY.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, TAIRA-SAN?
W... WHA ... T?
I... I'M. C... COOL. J... JUST-T-T-T F...FINE.
I-I AM C-COOL.
pant
pant
pant
pant
DON'T WORRY. HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
UGH! NOW I'M GETTING NERVOUS TOO.
.....
Inhale
exhale
pant
pant
pant
pant

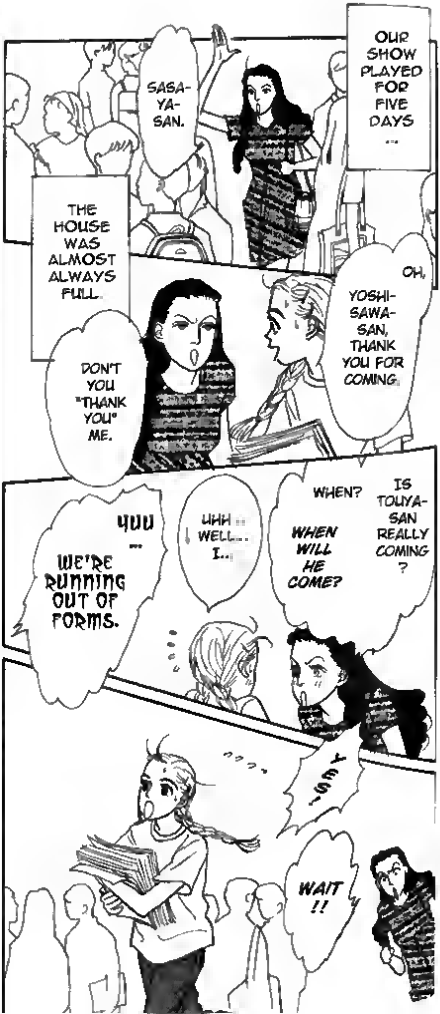
MISO-RE-SAN IS COM-POSED AND CALM
JUST LIKE IT'S AN ORDI-NARY DAY.
AS EXPEC-TED OF YOU!
FWIP
MIND YOUR OWN BUSI-NESS
WAHH!
CLAP
IT'S SHOW TIME!
YES, SIR!

The audience likes it.
Mysore


I WENT TO SEE IT 'CAUSE A FRIEND PERSUADED ME. I WAS COMPLETELY IGNORANT
THE FIRST PLAY I SAW,
IT WAS SUCH A LIVELY PLAY, FILLED WITH MYSTERIES AND WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF THIS WORLD.
IN THE END, WHAT STAYED IN MY MIND WAS JUST ONE PERSON, THE ACTOR WHO PLAYED A SMALL ROLE

AFTER THAT,
I SPENT MY SPARE TIME AND MONEY WATCHING PLAYS BY DIFFERENT TROUPES.
IT BECAME CLEAR
HOW THERE ARE SOME ACTORS
WHO CAN LIGHT UP THE STAGE JUST BY MAKING AN APPEARANCE.
PASHA
PASHA
PASHA
PASHA
PASHA
PASHA
PASHA
PASHA

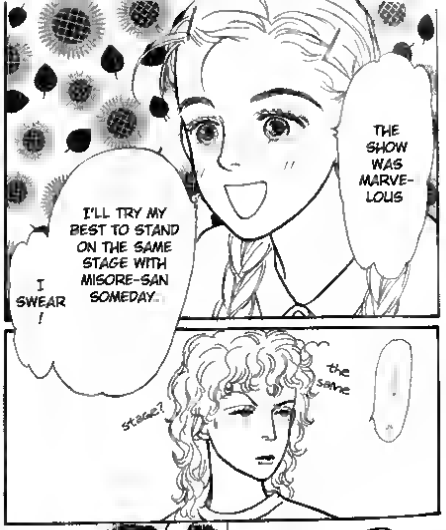
成功した
たぶしぎゃい
ぎゅむ… と
人がいっぱい
いる
たのしく
きらいだ


OUR SHOW PLAYED FOR FIVE DAYS ...
SASA-YA-SAN.
THE HOUSE WAS ALMOST ALWAYS FULL.
OH, YOSHI-SAWA-SAN, THANK YOU FOR COMING.
DON'T YOU "THANK YOU" ME.
WHEN? WHEN WILL HE COME?
IS TOUYA-SAN REALLY COMING ?
UHH ... WELL... I...
YUU ... WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF FORMS.
YES!
WAIT !!

THE SHOW CLOSED AS A SUCCESS.
CHE ...
AS EXPECTED, MOST OF THEM ARE ABOUT MISORE.
AH! LET IT GO ... SOMEONE WROTE ABOUT ME.
"GOBBLING UP 5 PIECES OF DAIFUKU" AT THE SAME TIME AMAZING!
HE SHOULD ENTER AN EATING COMPETITION!"
CHE
HE HE HE
SORRY, MY BUDGET IS VERY SMALL. THIS IS ALL I CAN AFFORD
WHAT ?

えがつけば
パジャマ君に
なろう
Tシャツせん

いと
かなし



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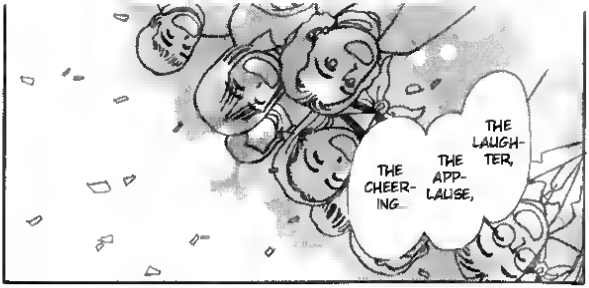
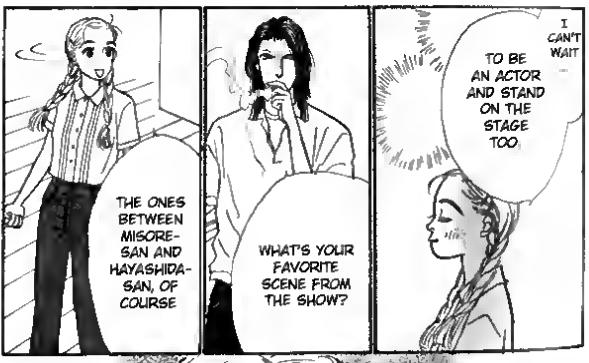
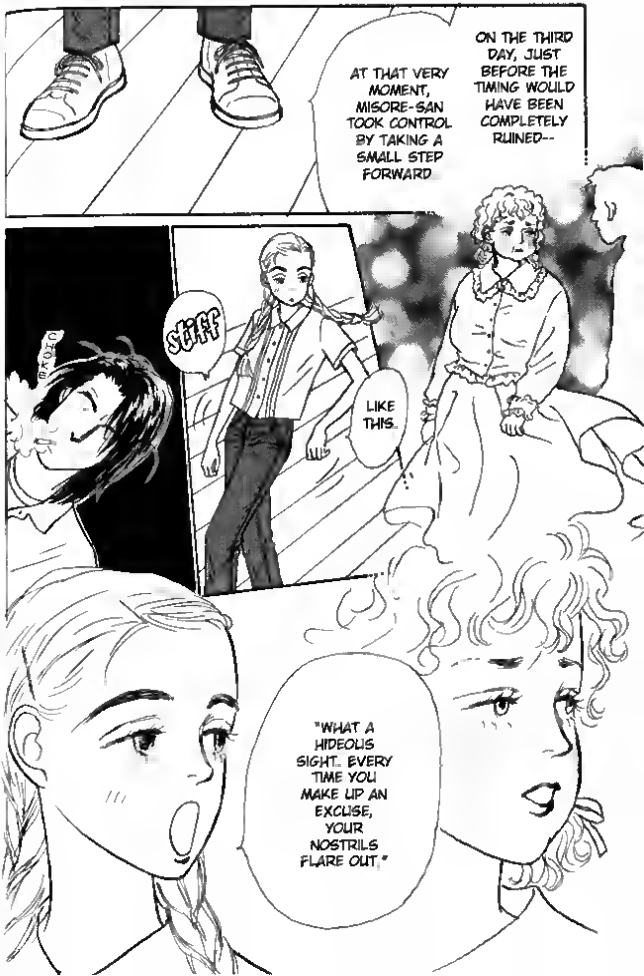
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HAVEN'T WE FINISHED PACKING THE SET?
WE DID.
EVERYONE'S GONE TO THE RESTAURANT TO CELEBRATE.
TROU-PE CHIEF ...
THEATRE IS SIMPLY AMAZING
THE FACES OF THE AUDIENCE LOOKING AT THE STAGE--

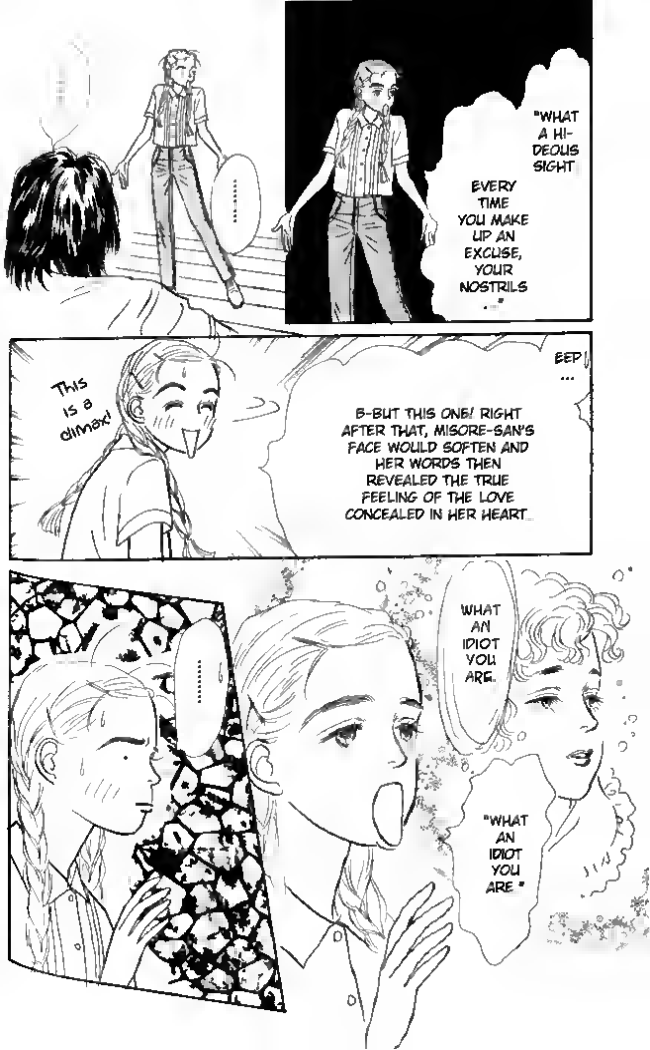

THE LAUGHTER,
THE APPLAUSE,
THE CHEERING...


I CAN'T WAIT TO BE AN ACTOR AND STAND ON THE STAGE TOO.
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SCENE FROM THE SHOW?
THE ONES BETWEEN MISORE-SAN AND HAYASHIDA-SAN, OF COURSE

HAYASHIDA-SAN ALWAYS MESSES UP THE PACE OF THE DIALOGUE
BUT AS EXPECTED, MISORE-SAN MIRACULOUSLY MANAGED TO PICK IT UP AND BALANCE IT BACK TO PERFECTION.


ON THE THIRD DAY, JUST BEFORE THE TIMING WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY RUINED--
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, MISORE-SAN TOOK CONTROL BY TAKING A SMALL STEP FORWARD
STAFF
LIKE THIS.
"WHAT A HIDEOUS SIGHT. EVERY TIME YOU MAKE UP AN EXCUSE, YOUR NOSTRILS FLARE OUT."

"LIKE THIS !!"
"LIKE THIS."
"LIKE THIS."
ICK!!
.....
NO NO!
THAT'S NOT IT.
I SAW HER DO IT EVERY-DAY, BUT THAT WASN'T EVEN CLOSE
But it's okay, it's okay.
Any-way, LET ME TRY AGAIN!


"WHAT A HI-DEOUS SIGHT
EVERY TIME YOU MAKE UP AN EXCUSE, YOUR NOSTRILS ..."
.....
EEP! ...
B-BUT THIS ONE! RIGHT AFTER THAT, MISORE-SAN'S FACE WOULD SOFTEN AND HER WORDS THEN REVEALED THE TRUE FEELING OF THE LOVE CONCEALED IN HER HEART.
This is a climax!
.....
WHAT AN IDIOT YOU ARE.
"WHAT AN IDIOT YOU ARE."

"WHAT AN IDIOT YOU ARE."
ONE MORE TIME.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT.
"WHAT AN IDIOT YOU ARE."
H-HOW ABSURD WHY CAN'T I DO IT?
ARE YOU SATIS-FIED NOW?

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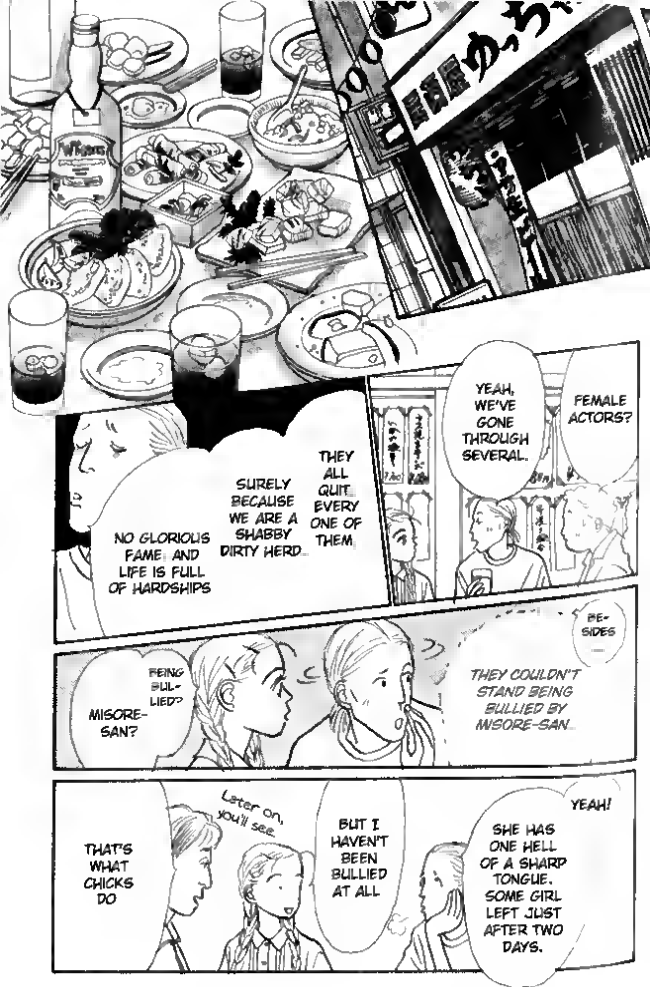
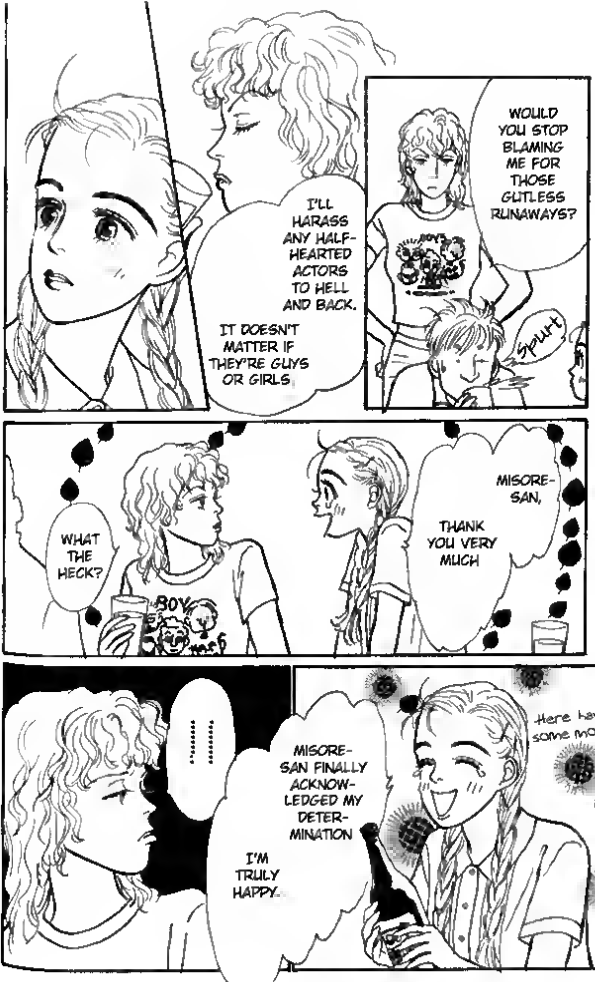
WHY CAN'T I DO IT?
I THINK I'VE PERFECTLY CAPTURED THOSE IMAGES IN MY HEAD.
COMPREHENSION ALONE WON'T MAKE YOU A GOOD ACTOR.
SEEING THE IMAGE IS NOT ENOUGH, EITHER.
WHAT YOU NEED IS THE ABILITY TO EXPRESS YOURSELF.
EXPRESS MYSELF ...
LIKE A GIFT ...?
I GUESS.
AND A LOT OF EFFORT.
EFFORT ?
OH
YES!
I'LL TRY HARDER !!
I GOT IT!
Oh, crap!

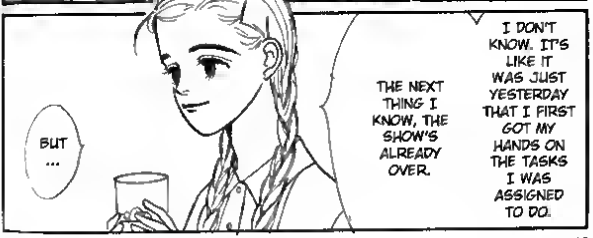

NO GLORIOUS FAME AND LIFE IS FULL OF HARDSHIPS
SURELY BECAUSE WE ARE A SHABBY DIRTY HERD...
THEY ALL QUIT EVERY ONE OF THEM.
YEAH, WE'VE GONE THROUGH SEVERAL.
FEMALE ACTORS?
MISORE-SAN?
BEING BULLIED?
THEY COULDN'T STAND BEING BULLIED BY MISORE-SAN...
BESIDES...
THAT'S WHAT CHICKS DO
Later on, you'll see.
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN BULLIED AT ALL
YEAH!
SHE HAS ONE HELL OF A SHARP TONGUE. SOME GIRL LEFT JUST AFTER TWO DAYS.

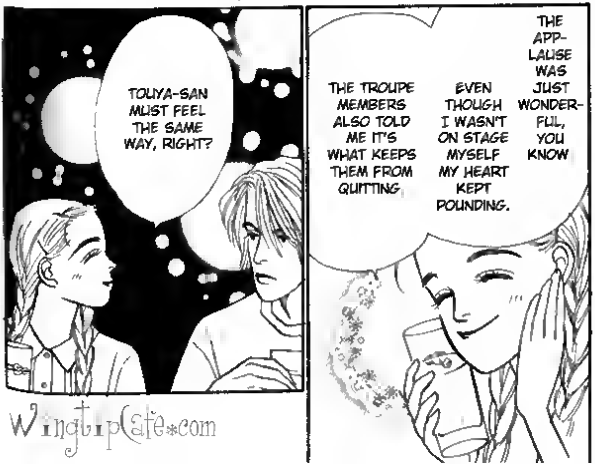

I'LL HARASS ANY HALF-HEARTED ACTORS TO HELL AND BACK.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THEY'RE GUYS OR GIRLS.
WOULD YOU STOP BLAMING ME FOR THOSE GUTLESS RUNAWAYS?
SPURT
WHAT THE HECK?
MISORE-SAN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH
.....
MISORE-SAN FINALLY ACKNOW-LEDGED MY DETER-MINATION
I'M TRULY HAPPY.
Here have some more

DON'T GET ANY IDEAS.
THIS BULLYING BUSINESS TAKES A LOT OF ENERGY.
WHY WASTE IT ON SOMEONE WHO ISN'T WORTH THE EFFORT?
.....!
OH, ICHI! TOUYA!
here
here
here
SLIDE
Angel
there you are

I DID.
BUT I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME SO I DIDN'T STAY FOR THE END.
HE WENT OUT TO PARTY WITH THE THEATRE'S PEOPLE
YOU DIDN'T COME TO SEE THE SHOW THIS TIME, RIGHT?
WHERE'S SHOUGO-SAN?
HOW WONDER-FUL, TOUYA.
YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN CAST FOR THE PLAY THIS FALL
WHAT!? THE SCRIPT ISN'T DONE, BUT THEY'VE ALREADY BOOKED YOU?
THE SCRIPT ISN'T OUT YET.
WHAT'S THE PLAY ABOUT THIS TIME?
SHUT UP.
ARGHHHH. I'M TURNING GREEN WITH ENVY HERE.

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, MISORE-SAN.
YOU KNOW... WASTING YOUR TIME ENVYING PEOPLE IS A SURE SIGN YOU'LL NEVER GET AHEAD OF HIM. DISGUSTING!!
BOYS
ALRIGHT!
OUR 'RAGANDOU' NEVER GIVES UP. GAHHHH!
HOW SUPERIOR IS YOUR 'ELOQUENCE' COMPANY !?
Hie
YOU BLOCK-HEAD.
Hie
WE'LL SHOW THEM THE POWER OF A SMALL COMPANY!
Too late. Poor us.
HA HA HA HA
No need to stress on 'small'


I DON'T KNOW. IT'S LIKE IT WAS JUST YESTERDAY THAT I FIRST GOT MY HANDS ON THE TASKS I WAS ASSIGNED TO DO.
THE NEXT THING I KNOW, THE SHOW'S ALREADY OVER.
BUT ...


THE APP-LAUSE WAS JUST WONDER-FUL, YOU KNOW
EVEN THOUGH I WASN'T ON STAGE MYSELF MY HEART KEPT POUNDING.
THE TROUPE MEMBERS ALSO TOLD ME IT'S WHAT KEEPS THEM FROM QUITTING
TOUYA-SAN MUST FEEL THE SAME WAY, RIGHT?

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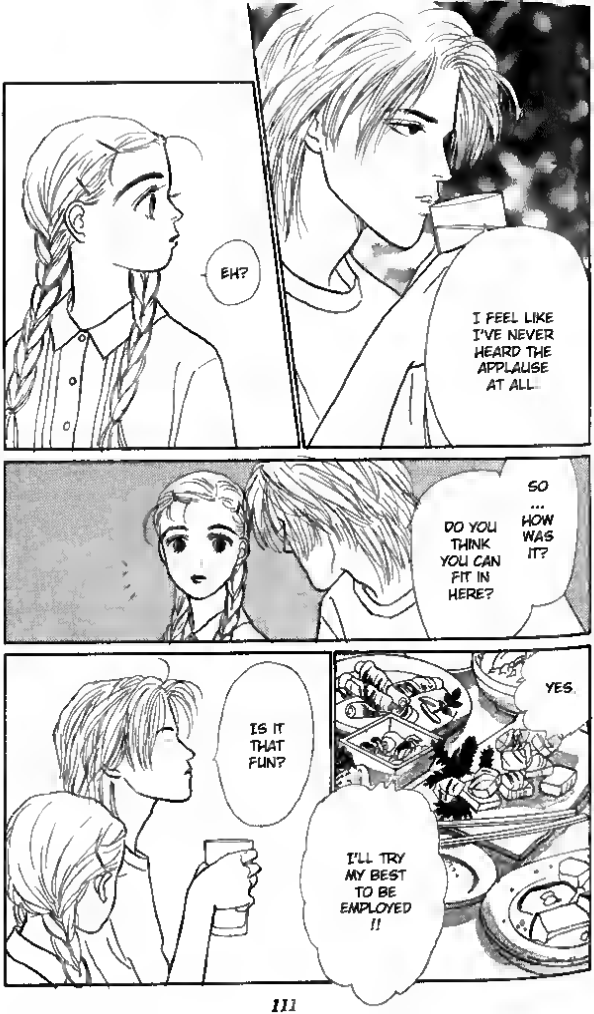
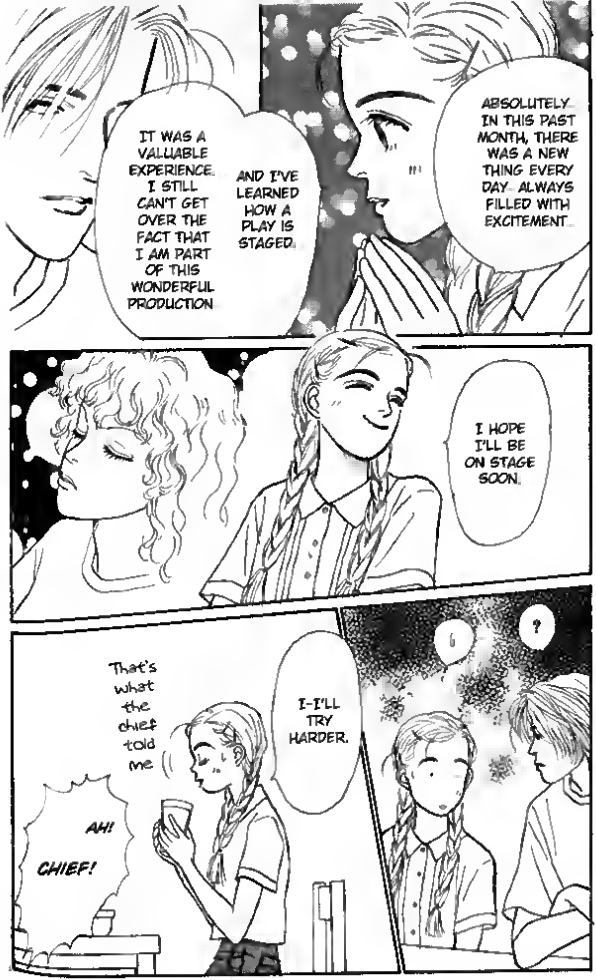
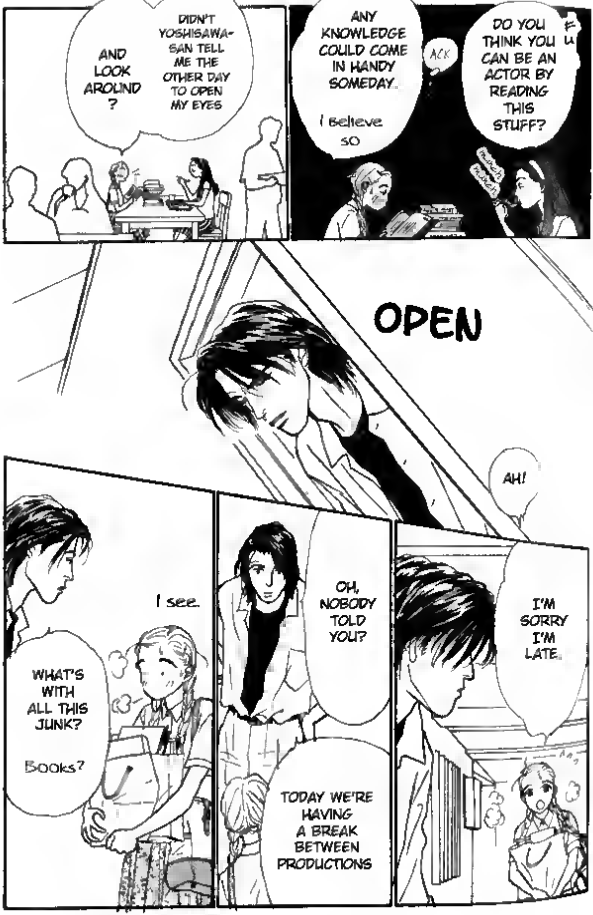

EH?
I FEEL LIKE I'VE NEVER HEARD THE APPLAUSE AT ALL.
SO ... HOW WAS IT?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FIT IN HERE?
YES.
IS IT THAT FUN?
I'LL TRY MY BEST TO BE EMPLOYED !!


ABSOLUTELY. IN THIS PAST MONTH, THERE WAS A NEW THING EVERY DAY. ALWAYS FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT.
AND I'VE LEARNED HOW A PLAY IS STAGED.
IT WAS A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE. I STILL CAN'T GET OVER THE FACT THAT I AM PART OF THIS WONDERFUL PRODUCTION.
I HOPE I'LL BE ON STAGE SOON.
?
I-I'LL TRY HARDER.
That's what the chief told me
AH! CHIEF!

YEAH! YEAH! LET'S GO, EVERY-ONE!
LET'S GO CRUSH A NEW BAR!
YOU CAME SO LATE!
OH MY... JUST ONE SHORT LINE, AND I CAN'T EVEN DO IT WELL.
"WHAT AN IDIOT YOU ARE."

GRANNY, MY HEART KEEPS POUNDING AND POUNDING
IT'S BRIM-MING WITH ANXI-ETY.
WHAT IS IT?
A MOUN-TAIN OF BOOKS ?
I CHECKED THEM OUT FROM THE LIBRARY.
THEY'RE ALL ABOUT THE THEATRE
RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO CATCH UP WITH OTHER PEOPLE-- EVEN IF JUST A LITTLE


DIDN'T YOSHISAWA-SAN TELL ME THE OTHER DAY TO OPEN MY EYES
AND LOOK AROUND?
ANY KNOWLEDGE COULD COME IN HANDY SOMEDAY.
I believe so
ACK
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BE AN ACTOR BY READING THIS STUFF?
OPEN
AH!
I'M SORRY I'M LATE.
OH, NOBODY TOLD YOU?
TODAY WE'RE HAVING A BREAK BETWEEN PRODUCTIONS
I see.
WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS JUNK?
Books?

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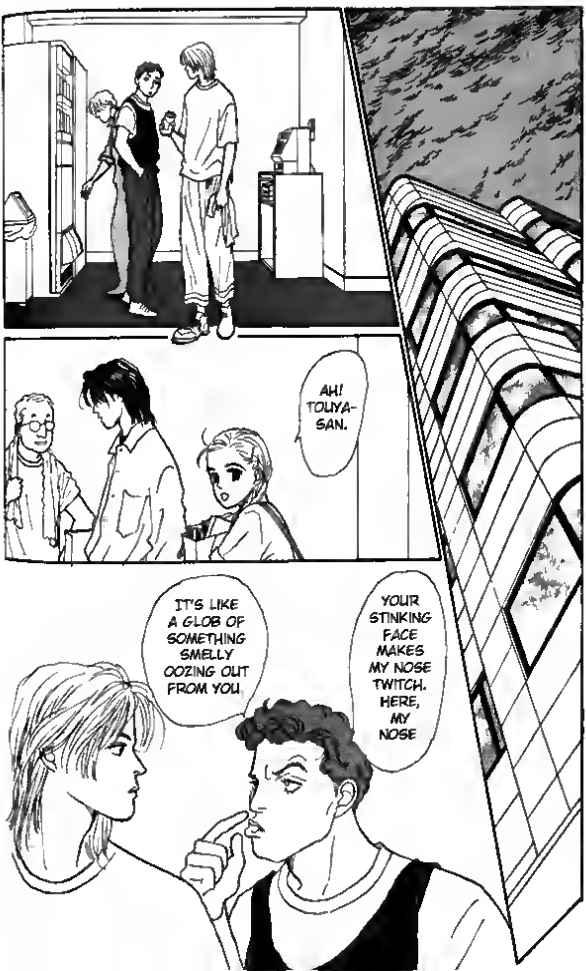
AH, YES! IN THE THEATRE MAGAZINE 2 YEARS AGO, I FOUND AN ARTICLE ABOUT TOLIYA-SAN... HOW ASTONISHING.
I HEARD MY FRIENDS TALK ABOUT HIM BEFORE BUT THIS IS INCREDIBLE!
I WAS READING.
IT'S THE REASON I WAS LATE...
ENVY, HUH?
YOU THINK SO TOO?
I THINK I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THE ENVY TAIRA-SAN AND OTHERS ARE FEELING.
I ONLY SAW TOLIYA-SAN ACT ON THE STAGE ONCE IN "POISON TROUPES'" DEAD MAN ROLE. BUT IT WAS SO GOOD IT'S BEEN STUCK IN MY MIND EVER SINCE.
YES. NOT ONLY TALENTED, HE ALSO HAD A GREAT OPPORTUNITY. ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE WAS OFFERED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN A MAJOR COMPANY

WHAT...? YOU RECOGNIZED HIS VOICE?
IT WAS TOUYA IN THAT ROLE?
HOW DID YOU KNOW
(Oops)
HOW SHOULD I SAY ...?
PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE THAT SCENE WITH THE DEAD MAN CAPTURED ME COMPLETELY.
NOW THAT DESERVES TO BE CALLED 'A GIFT'.
.....
TOUYA-SAN REALLY IS THAT GOOD OF AN ACTOR, YOU KNOW.
WANNA GO AND SEE?
EH?
RIGHT NOW ELOQUENCE' MUST BE REHEARSING FOR THEIR COMING-BACK-TO-THE-STAGE NEXT WEEK


AH! TOUYA-SAN.
YOUR STINKING FACE MAKES MY NOSE TWITCH. HERE, MY NOSE
IT'S LIKE A GLOB OF SOMETHING SMELLY OOZING OUT FROM YOU.

I DON'T KNOW HOW SUPERIOR YOU WERE WHERE YOU CAME FROM
YOU THINK YOU CAN BE ARROGANT JUST BECAUSE KONNO-SENSEI HAS YOUR BACK?
YOU MAKE ONE MISTAKE AND MESS UP MY LINES, YOU'LL NEVER SHOW YOUR FACE HERE AGAIN
CHILL, PAL.
HE CAN'T HELP IT. HE'S JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS.
Che
THOSE ROOKIES HAVE NO BRAINS OF THEIR OWN.
All they can do is imitate others like a monkey

TIME'S UP.
LET'S ROLL.
OKAY
NEXT, ACT 3,
STARTING FROM THE SCENE IN THE HOSPITAL CORRIDOR.

BANG
"I KEPT STARING THERE OVER AND OVER, BROTHER."
"STILL..."
"NO MATTER HOW I TRY, ALL I COULD SEE WAS NOTHING BUT TOTAL DARKNESS."
UH... EH?

"AND IT STARTED TO CONSUME MY WHOLE BEING.
THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO TO STOP IT !!"
CLATTER
"WHAT AM I TO DO !!?"
TOUYA !?
AH, SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO GET CAUGHT UP IN THE ROLE LIKE THAT. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
TOUYA, WHAT GIVES? YOU DON'T NEED TO GO ALL OUT LIKE THAT HERE.

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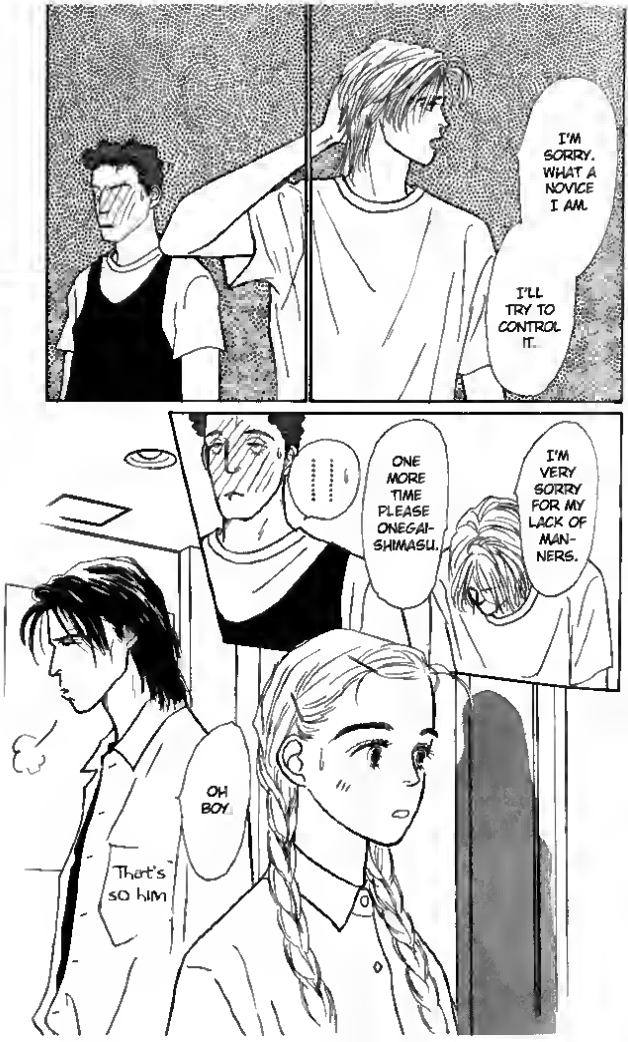
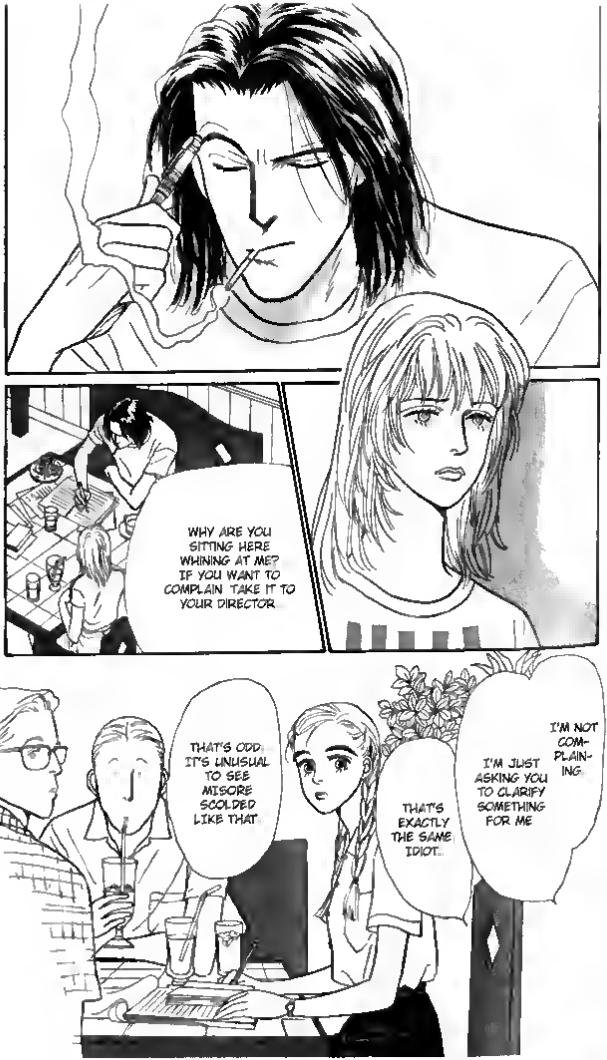

I'M SORRY. WHAT A NOVICE I AM.
I'LL TRY TO CONTROL IT.
I'M VERY SORRY FOR MY LACK OF MANNERS.
ONE MORE TIME PLEASE ONEGAISHIMASU.
OH BOY.
That's so him

THAT LEVEL OF HATRED AND JEALOUSY WAS JUST A TRIFLE.
EVERY ACTOR ALWAYS THINKS "PLEASE LET ME STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD."
IT'S A WHIRLPOOL OF RIVALRY AND JEALOUSY. NOT A WORLD FOR SOMEONE WHO DOES IT HALF-HEARTEDLY.
WOUNDING EACH OTHER FOR NO REASON.
MALICIOUS GOSSIPS
THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE ...
WHO LACK NOT ONLY THE MORALS OF AN ACTOR, BUT ANY TRACE OF HUMAN DECENCY.

ESPECIALLY WHEN A GOLDEN CHANCE FALLS ONTO A ROOKIE ACTOR LIKE TOUYA--
HE MUST BEAR A BURDEN HEAVIER THAN MANY OTHERS.
IT GIVES ME CHILLS JUST IMAGINING WHAT NASTY THINGS HE MUST DEAL WITH WHEN NOBODY'S AROUND.
Hah, forget it, forget it.
AND YET ---
DO YOU STILL ENVY HIM?

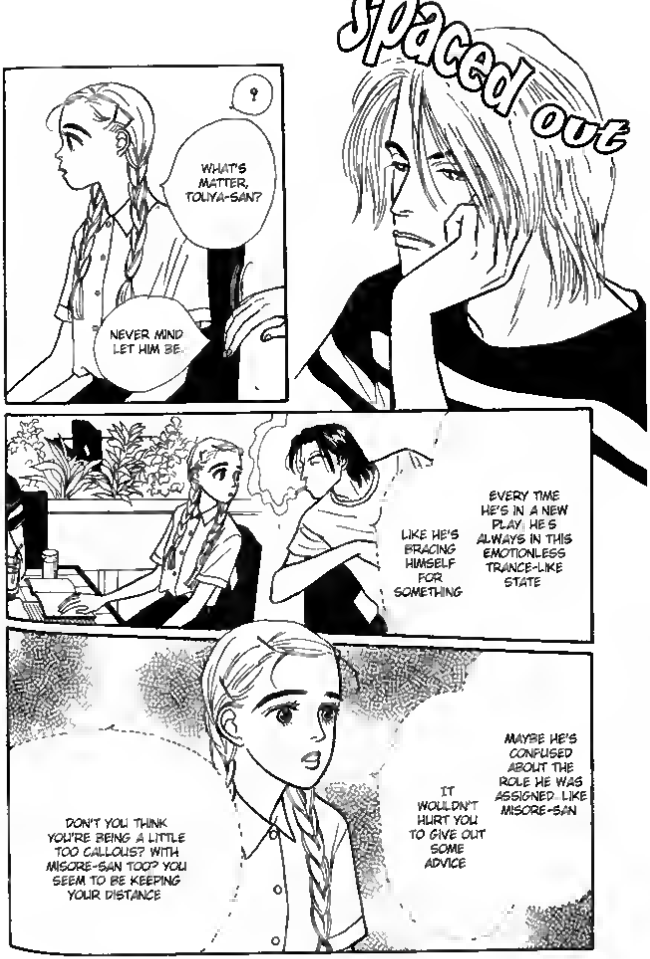
YES, I STILL DO.

THEY ALL MAKE IT TOUGH FOR HIM 'CAUSE THEY SEE THE POTENTIAL IN TOUYA-SAN ...
I REALLY
REALLY
ENVY HIM SO MUCH.


WHY ARE YOU SITTING HERE WHINING AT ME? IF YOU WANT TO COMPLAIN, TAKE IT TO YOUR DIRECTOR.
I'M NOT COMPLAINING.
I'M JUST ASKING YOU TO CLARIFY SOMETHING FOR ME
THAT'S EXACTLY THE SAME, IDIOT.
THAT'S ODD. IT'S UNUSUAL TO SEE MISORE SCOLDED LIKE THAT.

flip
AH! A SCRIPT!?
SHIMAMURA-SAN'S RULE IS THAT EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO THEIR OWN LIFE OUTSIDE THE TROUPE. BEING A GUEST STAR FOR OTHER COMPANIES IS A WAY TO GAIN MORE EXPERIENCE.
YEAH. IT'S NOT SURPRISING FOR SOMEONE OVERLOADED WITH TALENT. WHENEVER OUR COMPANY TAKES A BREAK, OUR TROUPE MEMBERS ARE USUALLY PURSUED BY OTHER COMPANIES.
MISORE-SAN IS PERFORMING FOR ANOTHER TROUPE!?
OH YEAH? I KEEP CHECKING THE AUDIENCE'S REACTIONS. I'M ALWAYS ANXIOUS ON MY PART.
PERFORMING IN A SMALL THEATRE IS RELAXING.
Bragging a bit
YEP.
FROM NEXT WEEK ONWARD, WE'LL JOIN SOME OTHER COMPANIES TOO. BUSY-BUSY.
.....
PLEASE DON'T KID ME
I HAVE EXAMS NEXT WEEK
OH, WILL YUU-CHAN BE SOMEWHERE ELSE AS WELL?
It's just stage fright. Don't worry

Chief Shimamura is contemplating the plot for the next play
MEAN WHILE I
The troupe members are either being invited to perform with other companies or engaged with other jobs Everyone is swamped
Sigh
WHEN DID YOU GET HERE!?


Spaced out
?
WHAT'S MATTER, TOLIYA-SAN?
NEVER MIND LET HIM BE.
EVERY TIME HE'S IN A NEW PLAY, HE'S ALWAYS IN THIS EMOTIONLESS TRANCE-LIKE STATE
LIKE HE'S BRACING HIMSELF FOR SOMETHING
MAYBE HE'S CONFUSED ABOUT THE ROLE HE WAS ASSIGNED. LIKE MISORE-SAN
IT WOULDN'T HURT YOU TO GIVE OUT SOME ADVICE
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE TOO CALLOUS? WITH MISORE-SAN TOO? YOU SEEM TO BE KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE

TAT
TAT
EACH OF THEM HAS HIS OWN STYLE, VISION, AND CONCEPT
EVEN THEIR METHODS OF DIRECTING A PLAY ON STAGE ARE ALL DIFFERENT
YOU SEE
EACH TROUPE HAS ITS OWN DIRECTOR
THEY ARE WHAT MAKE THEIR ACTORS
PRESENT THE PLAY THAT THEY PICTURE IN THEIR HEADS.
THERE ARE COMPASSIONATE DIRECTORS,
HARSH AND BULLYING DIRECTORS
DIRECTORS WHO CRUSH THEIR CREWS TO THE GROUND, AND DIRECTORS WHO FRATERNIZE WITH ALL THE TROUPE MEMBERS
THUS EACH TROUPE HAS ITS OWN STYLE
THEY MAY PERFORM THE SAME PLAY, BUT CAN STILL BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
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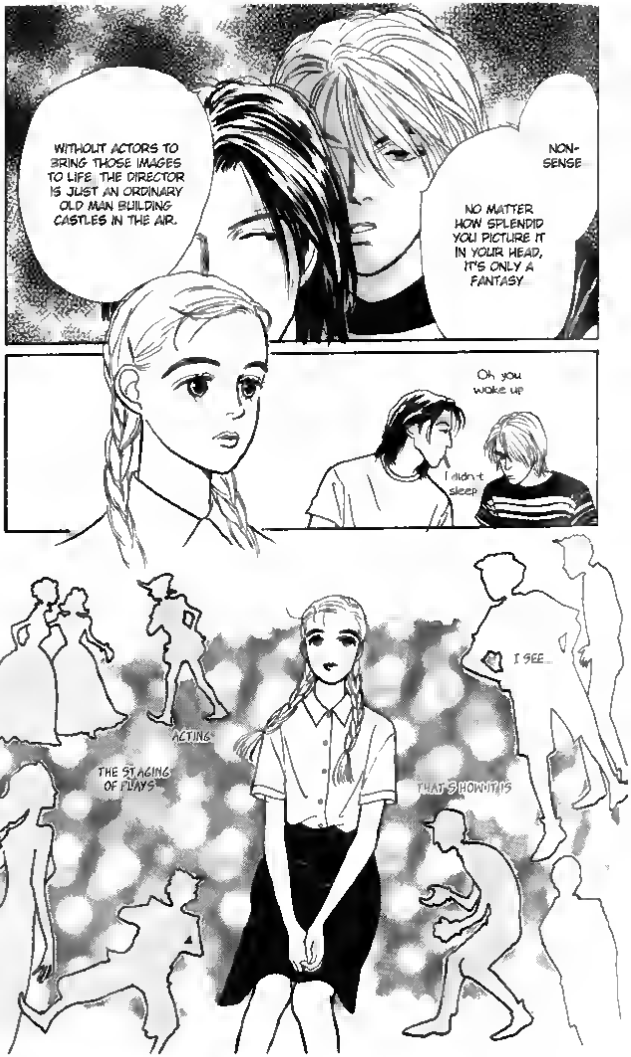
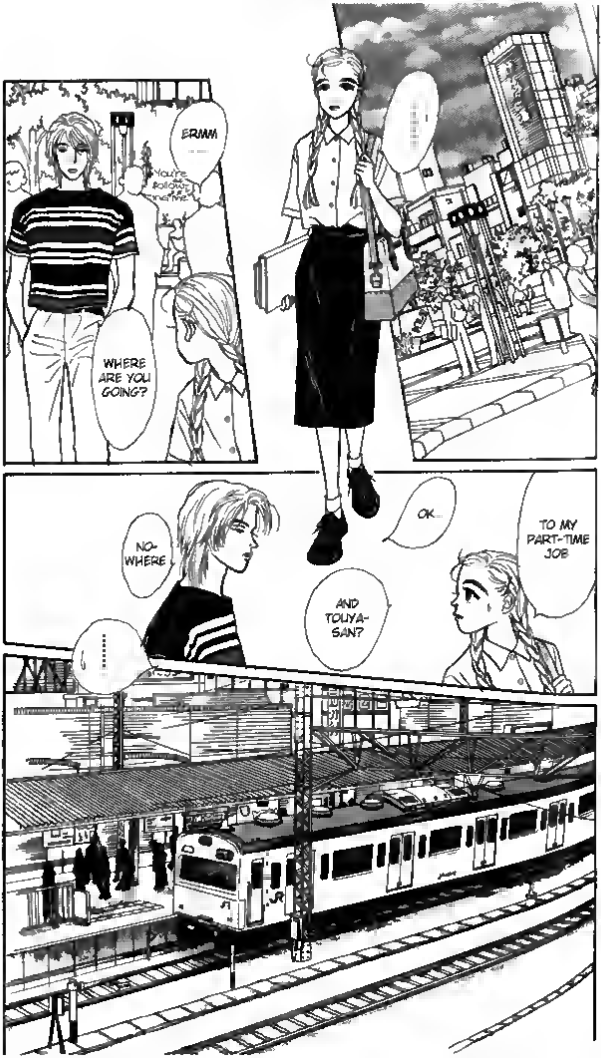
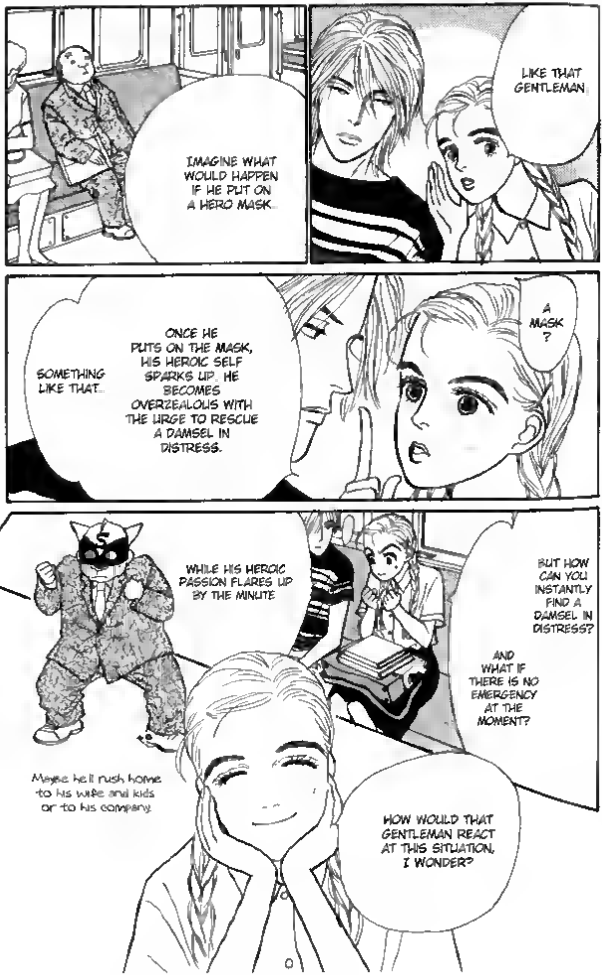
YOU MEAN HOW A PLAY IS GOING TO BE DEPENDS ON THE DIRECTOR?
SO IF I LISTEN TO THE CONCEPTS OF ANOTHER DIRECTOR, I DON'T SAY A WORD...
Yep
We are the coolest.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHILE THE AUDIENCE IS WATCHING THE PLAY ON STAGE, IT MAY SEEM LIKE THEY'RE ADMIRING THE ACTORS,
BUT, NO-NO — IN FACT, WHAT THEY ADMIRE IS THE DIRECTOR PRESENTING THE PLAY


NON-SENSE
NO MATTER HOW SPLENDID YOU PICTURE IT IN YOUR HEAD, IT'S ONLY A FANTASY.
WITHOUT ACTORS TO BRING THOSE IMAGES TO LIFE, THE DIRECTOR IS JUST AN ORDINARY OLD MAN BUILDING CASTLES IN THE AIR.
Oh, you woke up.
I didn't sleep.
I SEE...
THAT'S HOW IT IS.
ACTING.
THE STAGING OF PLAYS.

YOU CAN'T MAKE A GREAT PRODUCTION
WITHOUT EVERYONE GIVING IT ALL 100 PERCENT
ah,
CHIEF, PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR TODAY
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW!
FLY
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT
IF YOU DON'T SEE MY FACE OFTEN, YOU MIGHT FORGET THAT I'M A MEMBER OF YOUR TROUPE
YOU'RE EXCUSED UNTIL YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR EXAMS
YOU DON'T HAVE A REHEARSAL ANYWAYS
TOUYA, WE HAVE NO USE FOR YOUR GLOOMY FACE AROUND HERE. GO BACK TO WHERE YOU
Oh?

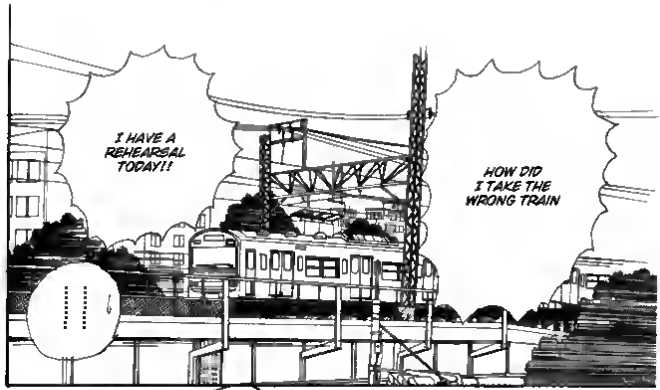

ERMM
WHERE ARE YOU GOING??
TO MY PART-TIME JOB
OK
AND TOUYA-SAN?
NO-WHERE

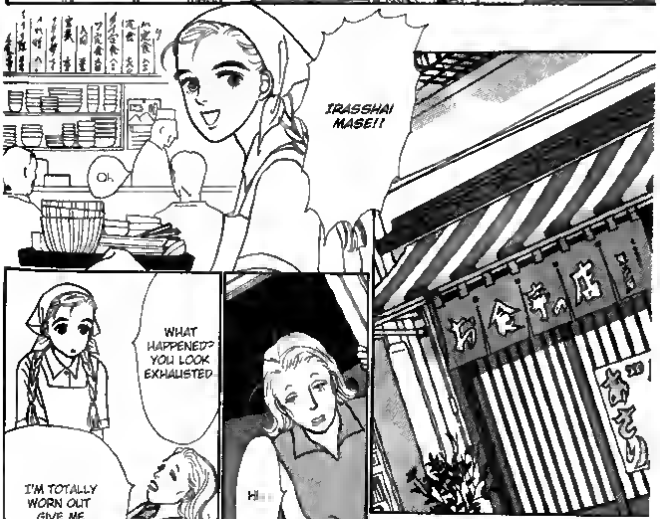
SPACED OUT
RATTLE RATTLE
OOPS
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S AN ON-DUTY SYNDROME
EVER SINCE I JOINED THE TROUPE EVERY TIME I LOOK AT A CROWD I CAN'T HELP MYSELF PICTURING THEM.


IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HE PUT ON A HERO MASK.
LIKE THAT GENTLEMAN.
ONCE HE PUTS ON THE MASK, HIS HEROIC SELF SPARKS UP. HE BECOMES OVERZEALOUS WITH THE URGE TO RESCUE A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
A MASK ?
WHILE HIS HEROIC PASSION FLARES UP BY THE MINUTE
BUT HOW CAN YOU INSTANTLY FIND A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS?
AND WHAT IF THERE IS NO EMERGENCY AT THE MOMENT?
Maybe he'll rush home to his wife and kids or to his company.
HOW WOULD THAT GENTLEMAN REACT AT THIS SITUATION, I WONDER?

YOU'RE REALLY SO NOT SUITED TO BE AN ACTOR
An on-duty syndrome
HAS TOUYA-SAN EVER LOOKED AT PEOPLE AND IMAGINED SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
ERR...
ARE YOU ICHII TOUYA OF 'ELOQUENCE'?
Kya
WOW
IT'S REALLY YOU!!
LAST MONTH I WENT TO SEE MIRAGE OF DREAMS'. I LOVED IT! VERY IMPRESSIVE!
Kya
I'LL DEFINITELY GO TO THE NEXT PLAY IN SEPTEMBER. DO YOUR BEST
THANK YOU!

OR MAYBE ?
WHISPER
A FRIEND?
WHISPER
Stop kidding! She's four!
gasp!
MY FANS, RIGHT?
YES ?
Ackk !!
NOT THE FANS OF DIRECTOR KONNO KIICHIRO?
N-NO





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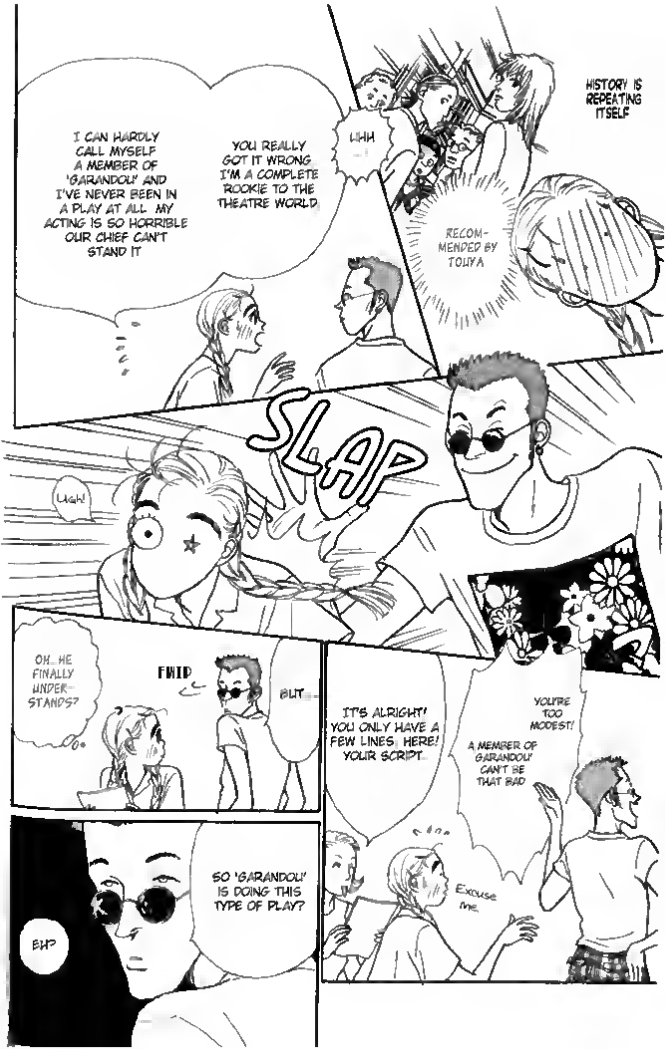
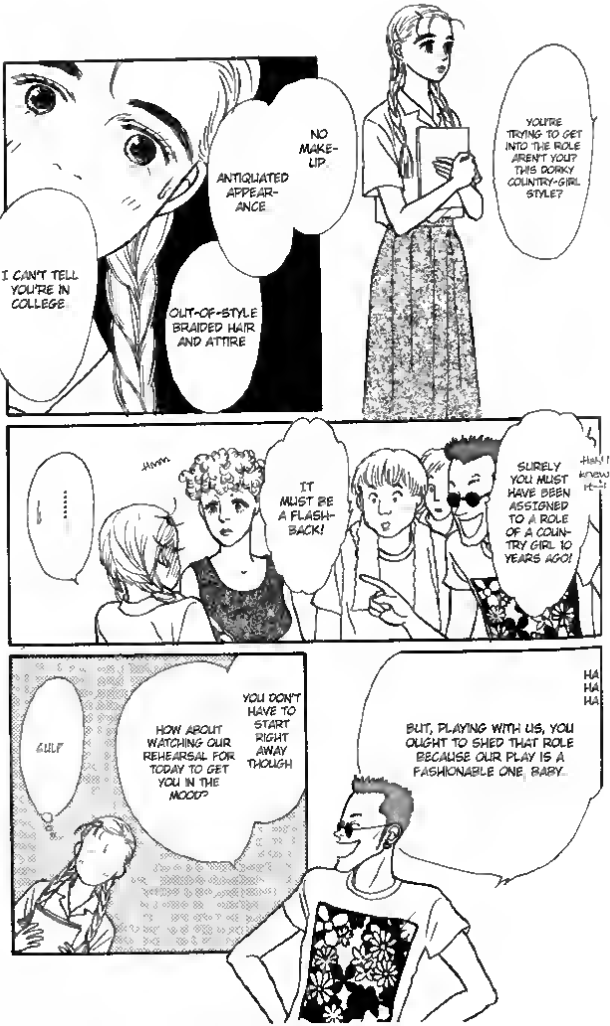
After I became a member of The Garandou Company, I was able to contact members of other companies as well.
THE SHOW IS OPENING SOON. IS THE REHEARSAL GOING WELL?
ONE SPECIAL 'STAMINA RE-JUVENATION PLATE'.
YOU'VE GOT IT!
NOTHING'S GOING AS PLANNED.
This lady, Morita-san, is one of them. She always speaks humbly of her troupe, calling it lame and reckless, but when she talks about it her eyes sparkle joyfully.
I've been acquainted with many people
CHOW
CHOW
THE PLAYWRIGHT/ DIRECTOR OF OUR COMPANY IS ALWAYS GIVING US NEW HEADACHES
DIRECTOR OF OUR COMPANY IS ALWAYS GIVING US NEW HEADACHES

AN ACTRESS? GARANDOLI'S MEMBERS ARE ALL MALE. OUR ONLY PRIMA-DONNA IS ALSO PLAYING FOR ANOTHER TROUPE.
WE NEED SOMEONE TO FILL HER ROLE IN TIME. YUU-CHAN, DO YOU KNOW A GIRL WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED?
MOREOVER, WE'RE SHORT OF ACTORS RIGHT NOW! THE SHOW IS APPROACHING!
.....
YUU-CHAN'S HEIGHT AND YUU-CHAN'S HAIR LENGTH
ABOUT YUU-CHAN'S AGE,
IF POSSIBLE, WE'D LIKE SOMEONE YOUNG.
YUU-CHAN!
GLAT
TER

M...
ME!?
REALLY!?
EH?
OH, YOU GOT THE GIRL... MORITA?
WITH HER SIZE, THE CLOTHES WILL FIT PERFECTLY.
AND SHE'S A PUPIL OF SHIMAMURA OF 'GARANDOU'. WE CAN'T GO WRONG WITH THIS
!


I CAN HARDLY CALL MYSELF A MEMBER OF 'GARANDOU' AND I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A PLAY AT ALL. MY ACTING IS SO HORRIBLE OUR CHIEF CAN'T STAND IT
YOU REALLY GOT IT WRONG I'M A COMPLETE ROOKIE TO THE THEATRE WORLD
UHH...
HISTORY IS REPEATING ITSELF
RECOM-MENDED BY TOLYA
SLAP
UGH!
OH.. HE FINALLY UNDER-STANDS?
FWIP
BUT...
IT'S ALRIGHT! YOU ONLY HAVE A FEW LINES. HERE! YOUR SCRIPT.
YOU'RE TOO MODEST!
A MEMBER OF GARANDOU CAN'T BE THAT BAD
Excuse me.
SO 'GARANDOU' IS DOING THIS TYPE OF PLAY?
EH?


I CAN'T TELL YOU'RE IN COLLEGE
OUT-OF-STYLE BRAIDED HAIR AND ATTIRE
ANTIQUATED APPEAR-ANCE
NO MAKE-UP
YOU'RE TRYING TO GET INTO THE ROLE AREN'T YOU? THIS DORKY COUNTRY-GIRL STYLE?
Hmm
IT MUST BE A FLASH-BACK!
SURELY YOU MUST HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO A ROLE OF A COUN-TRY GIRL 10 YEARS AGO!
Hah! I knew it!
GULP
HOW ABOUT WATCHING OUR REHEARSAL FOR TODAY TO GET YOU IN THE MOOD?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO START RIGHT AWAY THOUGH
BUT, PLAYING WITH US, YOU OUGHT TO SHED THAT ROLE BECAUSE OUR PLAY IS A FASHIONABLE ONE, BABY.
HA HA HA

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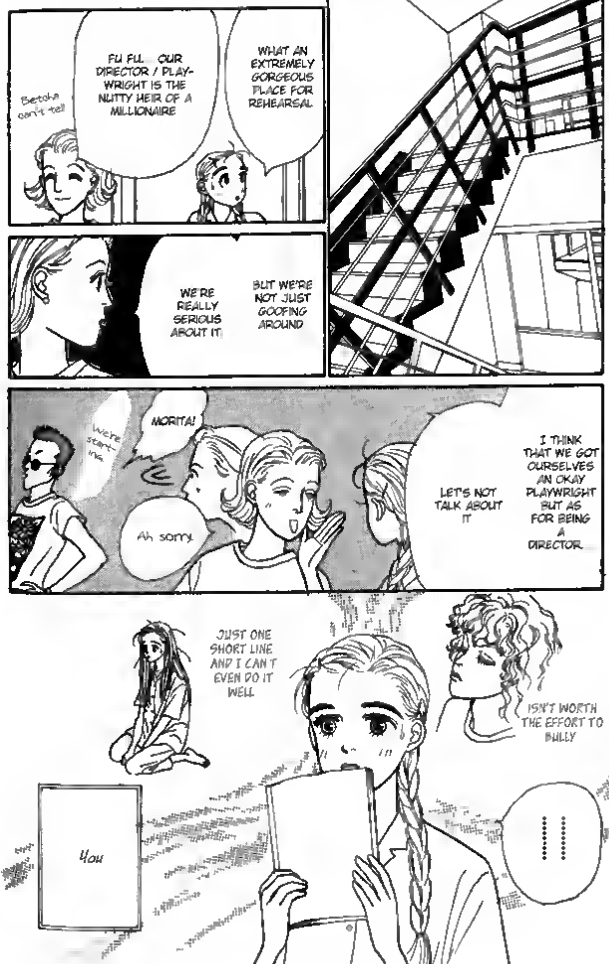
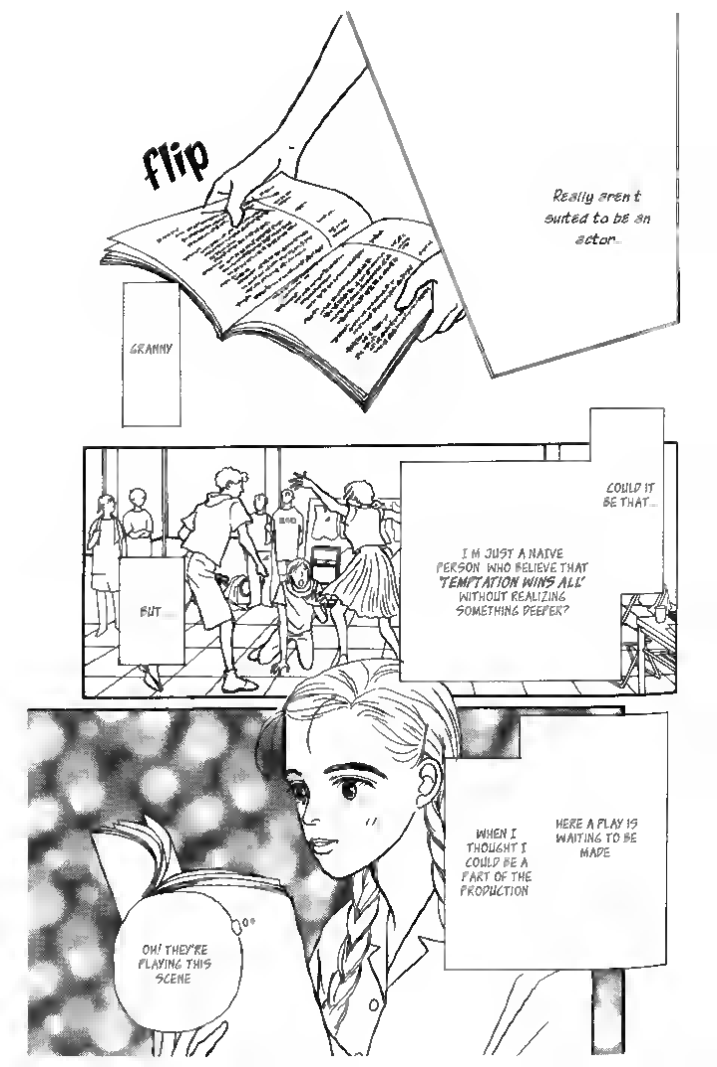
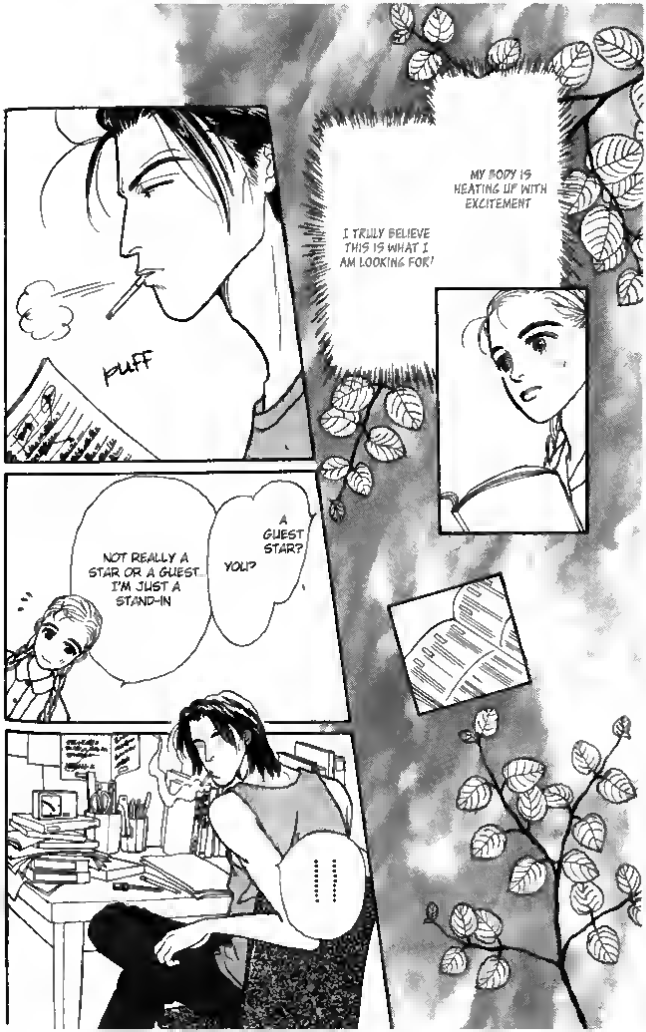
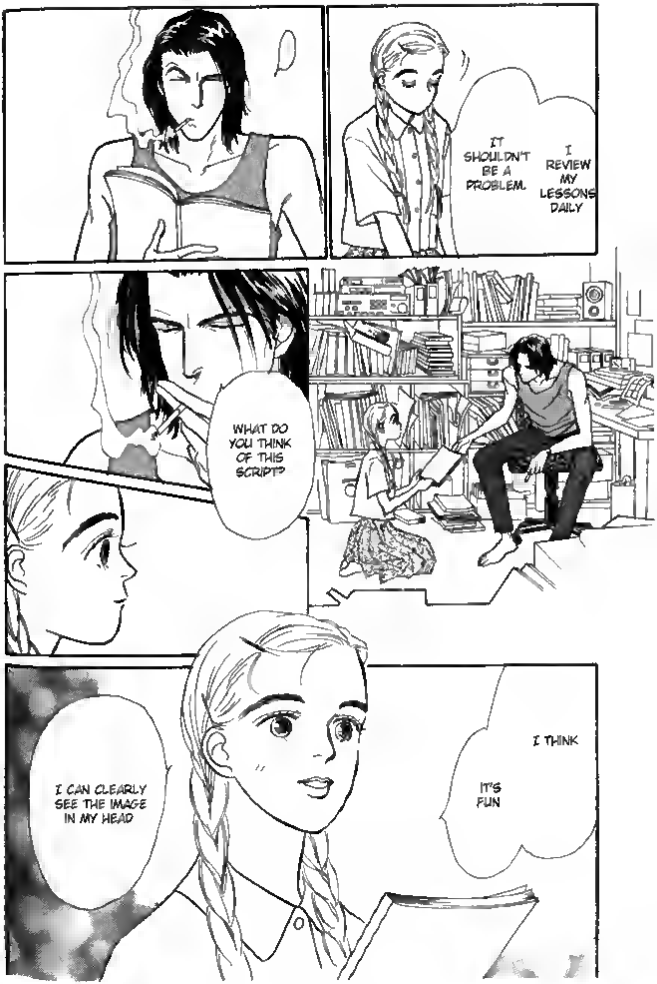

Bertolt can't act!
FU FU... OUR DIRECTOR / PLAYWRIGHT IS THE NUTTY HEIR OF A MILLIONAIRE
WHAT AN EXTREMELY GORGEOUS PLACE FOR REHEARSAL
WE'RE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT IT
BUT WE'RE NOT JUST GOOFING AROUND
MORITA!
We're sorry, ma.
Ah, sorry.
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT
I THINK THAT WE GOT OURSELVES AN OKAY PLAYWRIGHT BUT AS FOR BEING A DIRECTOR...
JUST ONE SHORT LINE AND I CAN'T EVEN DO IT WELL
ISN'T WORTH THE EFFORT TO BULLY
You
.....


flip
Really aren't suited to be an actor...
GRANNY
COULD IT BE THAT...
I'M JUST A NAIVE PERSON WHO BELIEVE THAT "TEMPTATION WINS ALL" WITHOUT REALIZING SOMETHING DEEPER?
BUT...
WHEN I THOUGHT I COULD BE A PART OF THE PRODUCTION
HERE A PLAY IS WAITING TO BE MADE
OH! THEY'RE PLAYING THIS SCENE


PUFF
I TRULY BELIEVE THIS IS WHAT I AM LOOKING FOR!
MY BODY IS HEATING UP WITH EXCITEMENT
A GUEST STAR?
YOU?
NOT REALLY A STAR OR A GUEST. I'M JUST A STAND-IN
.....

ERM.. I UNDERSTAND WHAT CHIEF TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY
NOT THAT I'M SEEKING YOUR ADVICE ON THE ACTING. I JUST WANT TO ASK YOU FOR APPROVAL
I'D SAY
BUT THE REAL PROBLEM IS THE ACTING
I HAVE ONLY A FEW LINES TO LEARN. MY PART IS THAT OF A QUIET GIRL
HER CATCHPHRASE IS 'LET'S JOT IT DOWN IN THE JOURNAL'
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU WEREN'T SEEKING ADVICE?
Let me see
YES
HOW ABOUT COLLEGE? AREN'T THE EXAMS COMING UP?


I REVIEW MY LESSONS DAILY
IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS SCRIPT?
I THINK IT'S FUN
I CAN CLEARLY SEE THE IMAGE IN MY HEAD

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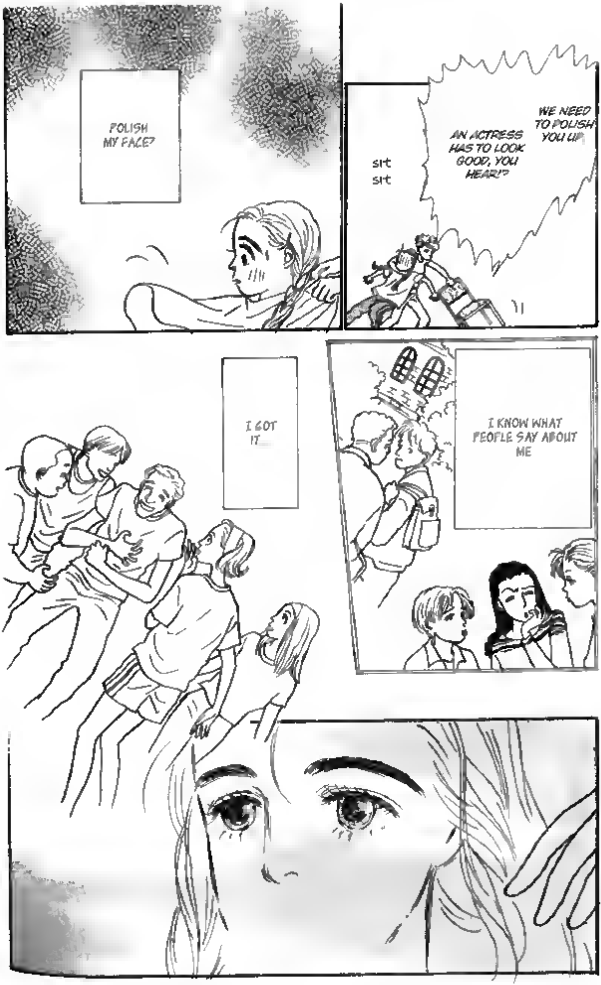
kick
kick
AREN'T YOU AS FREE AS A BIRD!
TODAY IS MY LAST EXAM DAY
AN ACTRESS HAS TO KEEP HER BODY FIT
YOSHISAWA-SAN THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME I GET TO PERFORM ON STAGE!
YOU EVEN HAVE TIME TO STRETCH YOUR LEGS DURING THE EXAM WEEKS

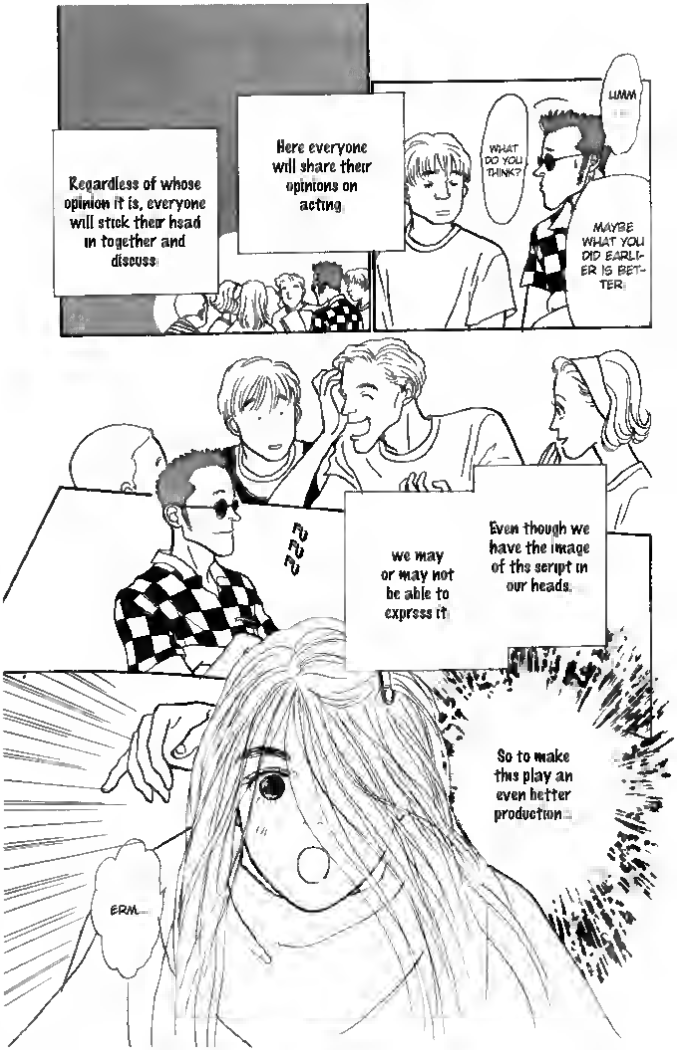
IT'S A SMALL TROUPE WITH ONLY TWELVE MEMBERS
WE'LL BE PERFORMING ON THE STATE AT THE COMMUNITY HALL FOR TWO DAYS...
DO YOUR STANDARDS KEEP GETTING LOWER OR WHAT!?
OH, BOY.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT NAME BEFORE
NOT WITH 'GARANDOU' THOUGH. I'M JUST A STAND-IN FOR A SMALL COMPANY CALLED 'MITERO'. BUT PLEASE COME AND SEE US!
YEAH!
YEAH!
I'M A GIRL WHO'S CRAZY ABOUT KEEPING A JOURNAL
PLEASE COME!
YES
IT ACTUALLY IS AN INTERESTING SCRIPT

Why is that?

Looks like my lameness is amazingly perfect for the role.

CAN I DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR FACE?
Huh?
YUU-CHAN
YES
Because the role I got is actually a robot
Hurry!
Hurry!
I WAS TRYING TO FINISH YOUR COSTUME YESTERDAY
BUT THIS FACE DOESN'T GO WITH THE STYLE AT ALL I'LL NEED TO DO SOMETHING WITH IT BEFORE THE REAL MAKE-UP
Maki-san is an actor here but she also handles miscellaneous stuff like make-up and costumes
IT'S SO UNACCEPTABLE THAT I JUST CAN'T STAND IT
UNACCEPTABLE...?
OF COURSE AN ACTRESS HAS TO REFINE HER STYLE IN EVERYTHING YOU KNOW...
I know you're studying a country girl role but this is too much. I can't take it anymore


POLISH MY FACE?
sirt sirt
AN ACTRESS HAS TO LOOK GOOD, YOU HEAR!?
WE NEED TO POLISH YOU UP!
I KNOW WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT ME
I GOT IT...


Regardless of whose opinion it is, everyone will stick their head in together and discuss
Here everyone will share their opinions on acting
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
UMM
MAYBE WHAT YOU DID EARLIER IS BETTER
222
we may or may not be able to exprsss it
Even though we have the image of the script in our heads
So to make this play an even better production
ERM

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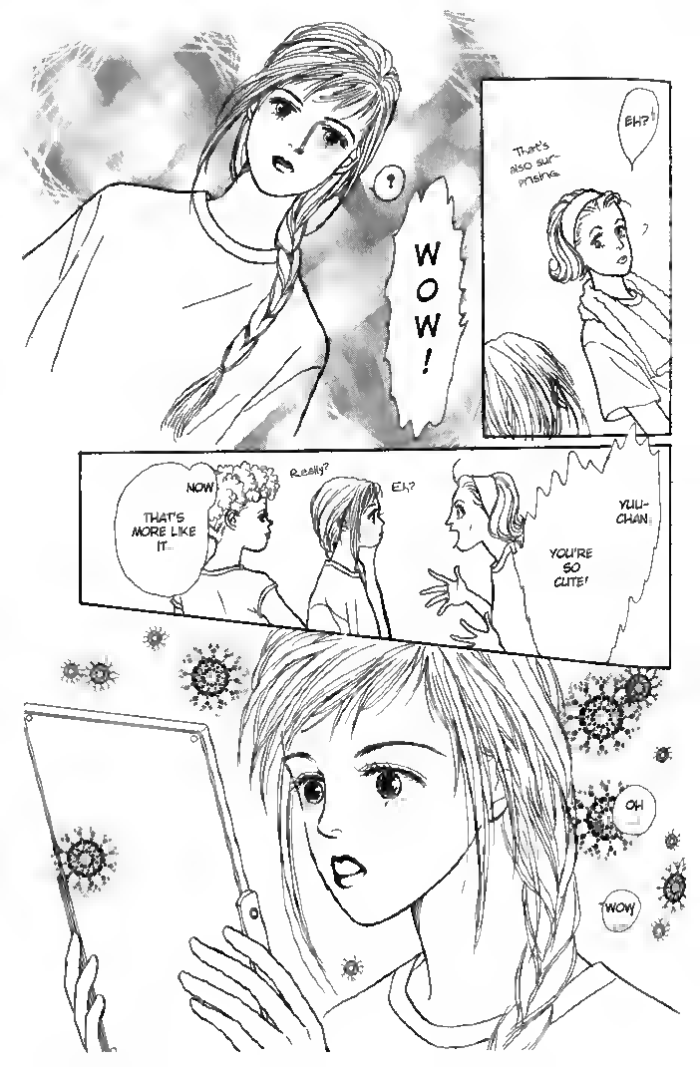
AI
WOULD IT BE BETTER ?
WHEN DONTYALE IS LAUGHING, IF HE USED MORE GESTURES
TRY IT!
MAYBE IT WON'T WORK
MORE MOVEMENT
AHA HA HA
MAKE NOISE WITH YOUR HANDS AND FEET TOO

OOPS
HA HA HA
HAHAHA
Ha ha ha...
I'M DOING IT NOW!
LOOK LIKE A MANIAC?
DOESN'T THIS
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
CLAP CLAP CLAP
The funniest part of this play
has made its mark
Everyone burst out laughing at Pontyale's laughter.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
YES
FOR THIS PART, STOMP YOUR FEET WHILE WALKING GREAT JOB!
TEMPO !
WATCH THE TEMPO!
AND THE TIMING!
INCREDIBLE
IT'S LIKE WE'RE ALL BEING ROUSED TO FOLLOW HIM.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SHIRAI WHO ALWAYS PLAYS SUCH SERIOUS ROLES CAN BURST OUT LAUGHING LIKE THAT
OH HE CAN A FEW DAYS AGO HE SAID "I FEEL ODDLY REFRESHED AFTER DANCING AND SINGING KARAOKE OUT LOUD"


WOW!
That's also our mission.
EH?
YOU'RE SO CUTE!
YUU-CHAN!
EH?
Really?
NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT...
OH
WOW

RIGHT NOW I DON'T THINK BEAUTY IS MY TOP PRIORITY
BUT...
O...OKAY
YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO APPLY IT PROPERLY.
YOU SEE? BEAUTY IS NOT ABOUT MONEY
IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS PLAY SUCCESSFUL
DURING THE TIME WHEN EVERYONE IS ACTIVE AND HOPEFUL
I CAN'T BE THE DEAD WEIGHT WEAKING THEM DOWN
パンコ
パンコ

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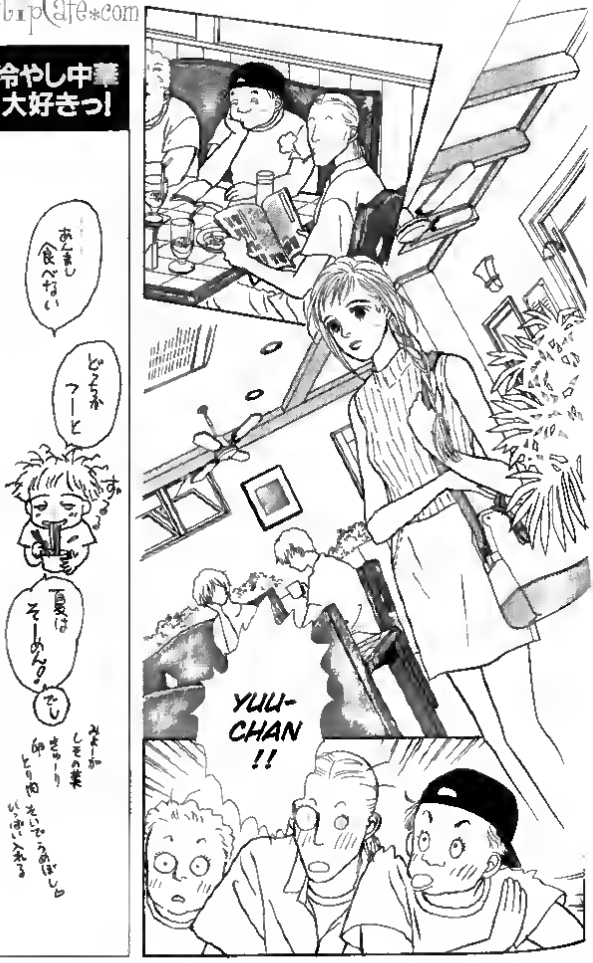
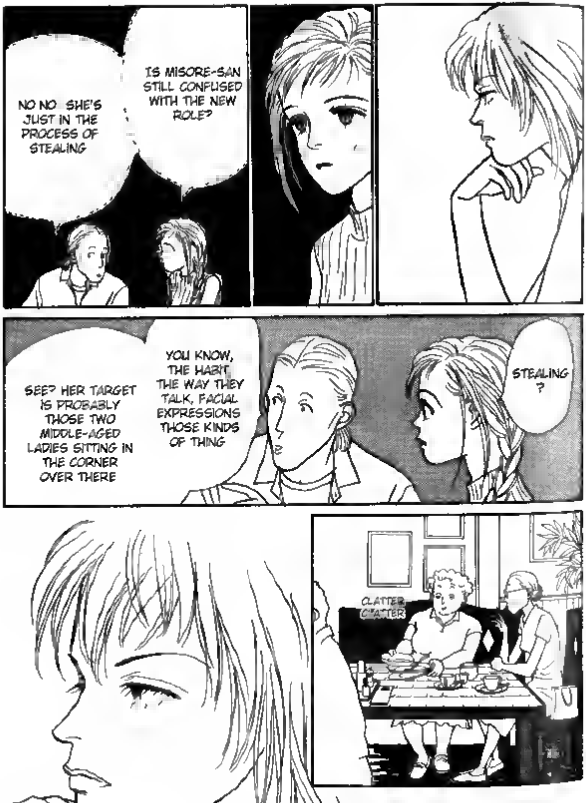
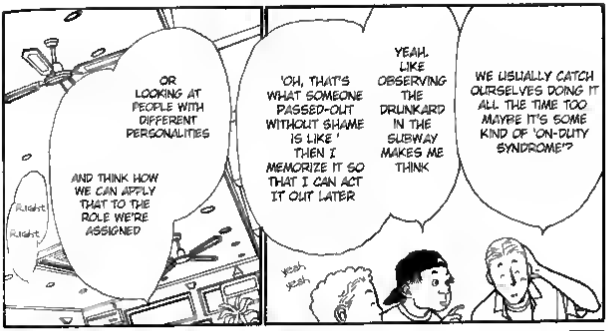
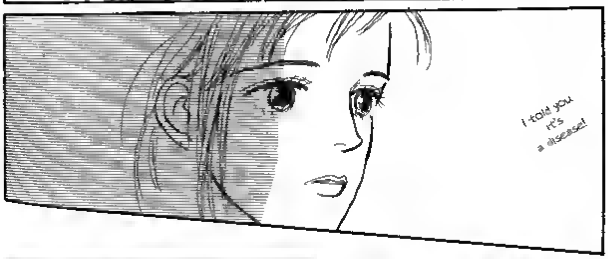
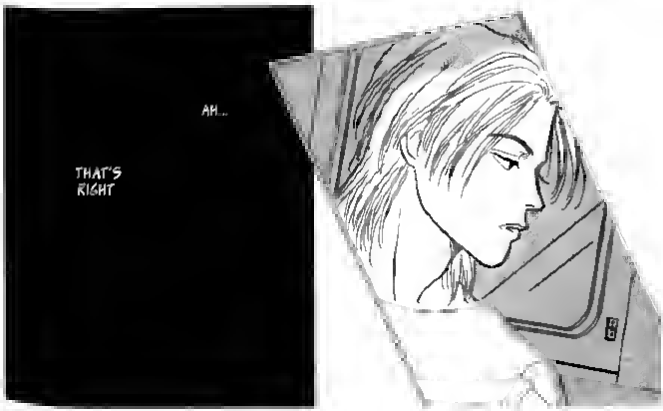


MY FRIEND, MAKI-SAN, LENT THIS TO ME SAYING THAT I NEEDED IT TO FIT INTO MY ROLE.
I STILL FEEL KINDA FUNNY.
IS THIS STRANGE?
NOT AT ALL
YOU'RE REALLY CUTE. MIRSORE, LOOK!
HEY, HEY MISO-RE
WE'VE GOT A SUR-PRISE
Look
NOISY!
HOW CONVENIENT. A ROLE YOU CAN FIT INTO WITH JUST A CHANGE OF COSTUME
SPARE ME FROM THIS NON-SENSE


IS MISORE-SAN STILL CONFUSED WITH THE NEW ROLE?
NO NO. SHE'S JUST IN THE PROCESS OF STEALING
STEALING ?
YOU KNOW, THE HABIT, THE WAY THEY TALK, FACIAL EXPRESSIONS THOSE KINDS OF THING
SEE? HER TARGET IS PROBABLY THOSE TWO MIDDLE-AGED LADIES SITTING IN THE CORNER OVER THERE
CLATTER CLATTER


OR LOOKING AT PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES
AND THINK HOW WE CAN APPLY THAT TO THE ROLE WE'RE ASSIGNED
Right!
Right!
'OH, THAT'S WHAT SOMEONE PASSED-OUT WITHOUT SHAME IS LIKE' THEN I MEMORIZE IT SO THAT I CAN ACT IT OUT LATER
YEAH. LIKE OBSERVING THE DRUNKARD IN THE SUBWAY MAKES ME THINK
WE USUALLY CATCH OURSELVES DOING IT ALL THE TIME TOO MAYBE IT'S SOME KIND OF 'ON-DUTY SYNDROME'?
Yeah, yeah.


I told you it's a disease!


AH...
THAT'S RIGHT

[Ashita no Ousama] Unit 4 - End

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明日の王様
Ashita No Ousama
UNIT 5

IT'S GONNA BE A DULL PLAY OF A NO-NAME TROUPE FOR SURE
AREN'T I A GOOD PERSON COMING TO WATCH A SHOW THAT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN BECAUSE I GOT A FREE TICKET
OH BOY
MITERO
ORGA
AH! YOSHISAW A-SAN!
I'VE COME THIS FAR. LET ME GET A PEEK AT THE ACTOR'S PARLOR
ALL RIGHT
WHO?
?
?
YOU'VE COME TO CHEER ME ON!
THANK YOU SO MUCH

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EH !!?
HEY, IT'S ME SASAYA YUU
I CAN'T TELL!
It's the make-up
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMING TO WATCH OUR SHOW TODAY
NOW PLEASE LET US CRUISE YOU AWAY TO THE FUTURISTIC CITY!

THE FIRST STEP IN ACTING THAT I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF WILL COME
IN ANY MINUTE NOW...
OH, JUST LEAVE HIM BE.
ONLY AN INTRODUCTION AND HE HAS TO DRESS IN GRANDEUR, HOW TYPICAL OF HIM.
So
Ne
MY FIRST PERFORMANCE !
BREATH
I'M WELL PREPARED
BREATH
EASY...
BREATH

花火 大好きっ!

府中競馬場の
花火が
ベランダから
見ることが
できる

ので

わざわざ
現場には
ゆかない

ので

しかけ花火の
はでなのは
見えない

ので

ちょっち
くやしい

ちぃ

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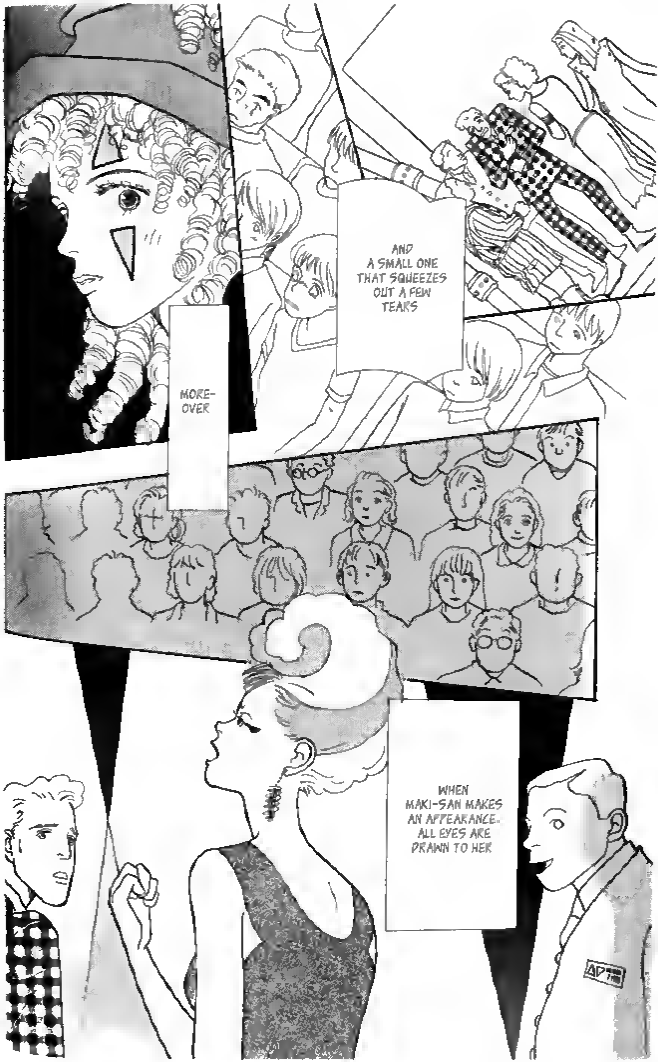

AND A SMALL ONE THAT SQUEEZES OUT A FEW TEARS
MORE-OVER
WHEN MAKI-SAN MAKES AN APPEARANCE. ALL EYES ARE DRAWN TO HER

WHILE EVERYONE WAS PRACTICING, SHE WAS SWAMPED WITH FRIVOLOUS PROPS AND COSTUMES. SHE NEVER HAD TIME TO WORK ON HER ACTING
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE ONLY DID IT ONCE DURING THE LAST REHEARSAL
THIS WOMAN...
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.
LET'S ERASE IT ALL.
GIVE ME THE DISC FROM THE BEGINNING
OH
YES,
DIARY DISC,
EJECT

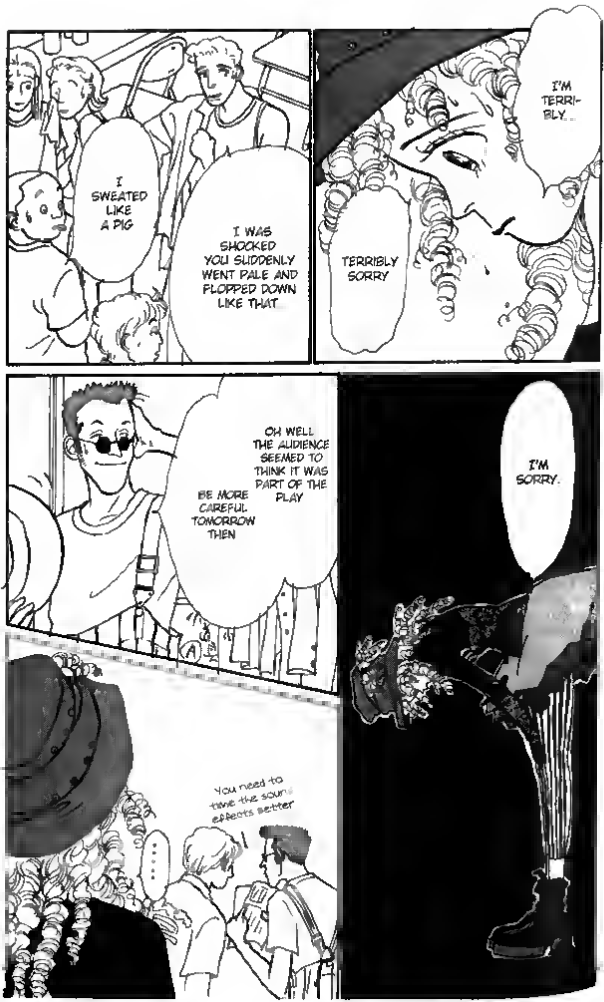
PALE
?
?
!
I LEFT IT ON THE DESK BACK-STAGE
I FORGOT TO PUT IT IN MY POCKET
I FORGOT
THE DISC
MUST GO GET IT
TAP

ドサッ
Ah...
Ouch
Shh...
Be still.
Don't move.

HERE YOUR DISC
OH.. SHE BROKE
LOOKS LIKE THE SYSTEM IS OVER-HEATED
YOU MUST HAVE OVER-WORKED HER
IS RECORDED IN THIS CRAPPY LITTLE DISC
YOUR LIFE FROM THE BEGINNING
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO ERASE IT?

GULP
NOW,
THE SOUND EFFECT.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
GULP!

PLEASE FILL OUT THE SURVEY FORM.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
IT WAS FUN!
BUT EVEN SOMEONE AS INEPT AS SASAYA CAN'T POSSIBLY FAIL TO CARRY OUT SUCH AN EXTREMELY EASY ROLE
THAT WAS SHOCKING! I THOUGHT SHE JUST MADE A HUGE FOOL OF HERSELF!


I SWEATED LIKE A PIG
I WAS SHOCKED YOU SUDDENLY WENT PALE AND FLOPPED DOWN LIKE THAT
I'M TERRIBLY...
TERRIBLY SORRY
OH WELL THE AUDIENCE SEEMED TO THINK IT WAS PART OF THE PLAY
BE MORE CAREFUL TOMORROW THEN
I'M SORRY.
You need to time the sound effects better
.....

MAKI-SAN...
DON'T WORRY ANYONE CAN MAKE A MISTAKE
JUST REMEMBER NOT TO REPEAT IT AGAIN.
YOU KNOW?
YES.
It was full of mistakes that had to be fixed by other people.
Granny, and that was my first performance

While I am still nervous not to make any more mistake the play has already ended.
Some say that there is no time for fun in an actor's life.
Before I can begin to savor the applause on the last day
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE? EVERYONE IS CELEBRATING THE PRODUCTION'S SUCCESS. PUT ON A MERRY MOOD, WILL YA!?

The hair is still curly from the hairdo
ESPECIALLY NOW.
PAT
PAT
THAT FACE DOESN'T SUIT THE CHEERFUL YUU-CHAN AT ALL
I THINK THAT ACTORS ARE SUCH AN AWESOME BREED.
ESPE-CIALLY
MAKI-SAN, YOU'RE JUST INCREDIBLE
ME?

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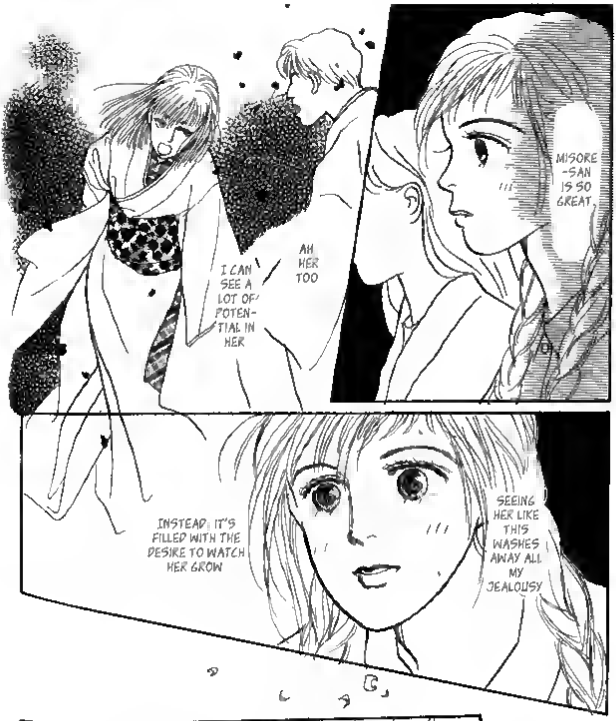
Huh!?
I DIDN'T JOIN THIS TROUPE TO PERFORM ON STAGE. I JUST HELPED OUT BECAUSE THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH ACTORS TO FILL THE ROLES. HONESTLY, I'D RATHER WORK ON PROPS AND COSTUMES.
I INTEND TO BUILD MY SKILLS FROM HERE. SOMEDAY I'LL MAKE A GRAND PRODUCTION OF MY OWN.
THIS TROUPE MAY BE SMALL, BUT IT'S NEVER STINGY ON PROPS AND COSTUMES. HERE I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT.
.....

Hey!
N-NO, YOU CAN'T
MAKI-SAN MUST BE AN ACTOR THIS INCREDIBLE TALENT, YOU CAN'T WASTE IT ON THAT STUFF...
THAT STUFF? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "THAT STUFF" !?
Please become an actor!
Don't you ever belittle anyone's dream you hear?
WHAT ARE THOSE TWO BICKERING ABOUT?
ERM...
Y...
YOU WENT TO SEE THE PLAY TOO !?

IT IT WAS
MY FIRST TIME ANYONE CAN MAKE A MISTAKE..
CHILL CHILL DON'T WORRY. THAT KIND OF MISTAKE HELPS US GROW
CHUCKLE
I NEVER SAW ANYONE FELL FLAT ON STAGE LIKE THAT BEFORE.
KU KU KU
OK
However,
something is stuck in my mind
My first and only performance


MISORE-SAN IS SO GREAT
AH HER TOO
I CAN SEE A LOT OF POTENTIAL IN HER
SEEING HER LIKE THIS WASHES AWAY ALL MY JEALOUSY
INSTEAD, IT'S FILLED WITH THE DESIRE TO WATCH HER GROW

NO...
NOT JUST MISORE-SAN...

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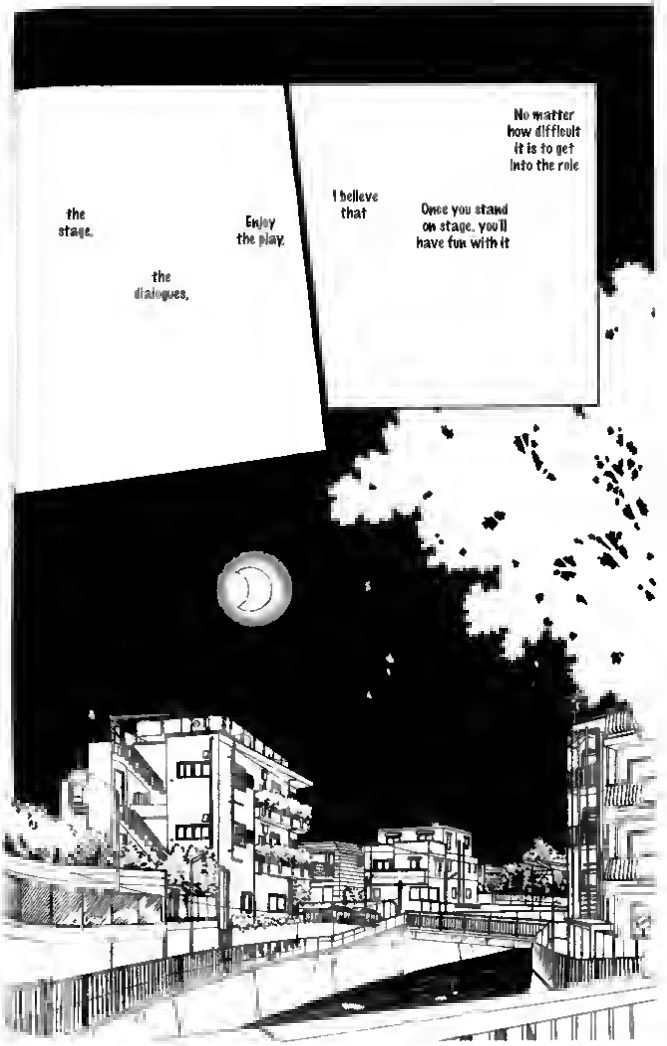
No matter how difficult it is to get into the role
I believe that
Once you stand on stage, you'll have fun with it
Enjoy the play
the stage.
the dialogues,

But granny
There are things that no matter how hard we try, can never come true.

There are times
in which one must learn to give up

G
ULP
CHIEF SHIMA-MURA !
BAM
Ding Dong
Ding Dong
Breath
Breath
Breath
Breath
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I HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT
I'M VERY SORRY
I BEGGED YOU TO ACCEPT ME INTO THE COMPANY BUT IT JUST HAD TO END THIS WAY
I'VE BEEN THINKING FOR DAYS OVER AND OVER.
I HAD TO FINALLY ACCEPT THAT THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN'T DO NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY

I HAVE GIVEN UP ALL HOPE TO BE AN ACTRESS
WHAT?
YOU'VE GIVEN UP ALREADY ?

C-CHIEF!?
OUT TO BUY CIGARETTES
TOUYA-SAN!
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT LONG AND HARD
IT'S NOT EASY
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D GIVE UP THIS EASILY

I HEARD ABOUT YOUR FIRST PERFORMANCE
SHOUGO-SAN TOLD ME IF A SMALL MISTAKE CAN DISCOURAGE YOU, THEN YOUR DREAM IS NOT A BIG DEAL AFTER ALL
I FINALLY FOUND MY PASSION. I DISCOVERED MY DREAM AND I HAD A CLEAR GOAL IN MY MIND.
I WAS READY TO GIVE IT 100%
YOU MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT YOU CAN DO MUCH BETTER
THE VERSION YOU SEE YOURSELF IN YOUR HEAD IS DIFFERENT FROM REALITY. IS THAT WHY YOU'RE UPSET?
JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T TURN OUT THE WAY YOU PICTURED YOURSELF
YOU DECIDED THAT IT'D BE BETTER NOW TO EXIT AND RUN
HAH...!

WASN'T THAT A LITTLE HARSH?
YOU THINK?
THAT'S WHAT SHOUGO-SAN SAID TO ME BACK IN THOSE DAYS
OH YEAH YOU ARE
I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY
TOUYA-SAN?
I'M NOT THE GOLDEN BOY PEOPLE THINK I AM.
THAT'S WHAT SHOUGO-SAN SAID TO ME

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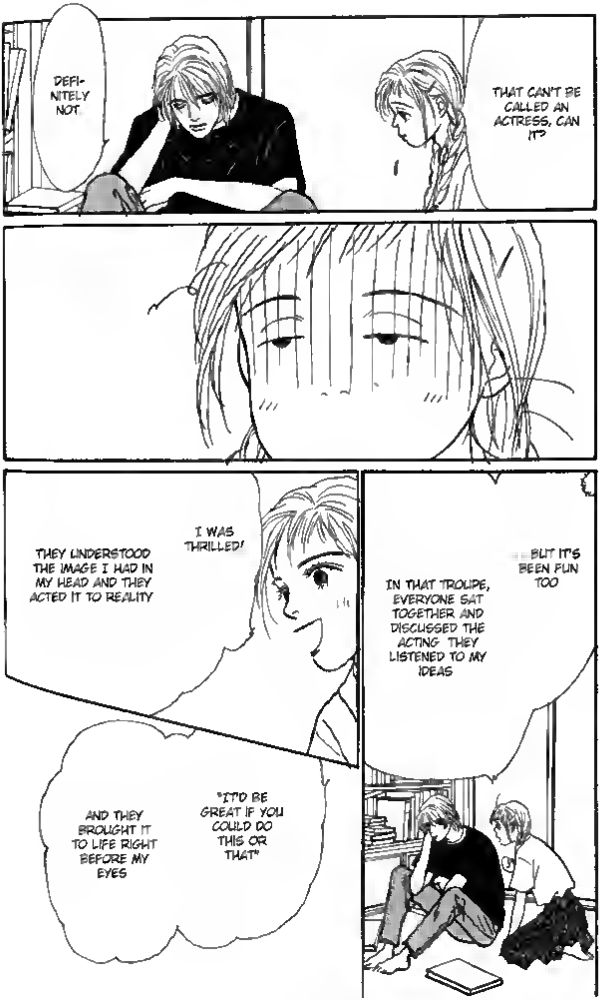
!!!!!
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T THINK THAT YOU'RE CUT OUT TO BE AN ACTRESS AT ALL.
OH ?
AM I TRYING TO HOLD YOU BACK?
I just realized
TOUYA -SAN
WHAT ARE YOU WHEN YOU'RE ACTING?
ON THE STAGE, WHAT HAPPENS TO "ICHII TOUYA" ?
NOTHING HAPPENS
JUST THERE IS NO ICHII TOUYA ON STAGE
IN THE WORLD OF DRAMA, THE ONLY PEOPLE ALIVE ARE THE PEOPLE IN IT.
THAT'S RIGHT.

EVEN AFTER THE PLAY'S OVER, OR AFTER CURTAIN CALLS, I STILL FEEL DEPRESSED...
YOU KNOW WHAT? MY CASE IS EVEN WORSE.
THAT'S AMAZING. THAT'S WHY I WAS HOOKED BY JUST WATCHING YOUR PLAY ONLY ONCE
THERE-FORE...
I FOUND MY OWN DREAM TOO. I'D VERY MUCH LOVE TO BE A PART OF THE DRAMA WORLD.
IT HIT ME RIGHT IN THE HEART AND I CAN NEVER SHAKE OFF THE FEELING
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS I KEEP ASKING
IT MUST BE FATE THAT MAKES ME ATTRACTED TO "THE WORLD OF STAGE PLAY"...

BUT AFTER "PERFORMING" JUST ONCE, IT HAS DAWNED ON ME
THAT MISTAKE WASN'T THE REASON I GAVE UP
BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED..
IT LED TO NOWHERE.
ON THE STAGE
STANDS ONLY "SASAYA YUU"
"RECITING THE LINES SHE S MEMORIZED"


DEFINITELY NOT
THAT CAN'T BE CALLED AN ACTRESS, CAN IT?
I WAS THRILLED!
THEY UNDERSTOOD THE IMAGE I HAD IN MY HEAD AND THEY ACTED IT TO REALITY
IN THAT TROUPE, EVERYONE SAT TOGETHER AND DISCUSSED THE ACTING THEY LISTENED TO MY IDEAS
BUT IT'S BEEN FUN TOO
"IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU COULD DO THIS OR THAT"
AND THEY BROUGHT IT TO LIFE RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES

EVERY-THING WAS GREAT
FUN AND EXCITING
OH,
THERE IS ALSO ONE PERSON
SHE'S SO GREAT HER NAME IS MAKI
WHEN I SAW MAKI-SAN ON STAGE
SHE IS SO TALENTED AS AN ACTRESS
IT WAS AS IF I WERE WATCHING TOLIYA-SAN OR MISORE-SAN
JUST IMAGINING WHAT KIND OF ROLE SHE WILL PLAY, WHAT KIND OF WORLD SHE WILL ACT IN
MAKES MY HEART SWELL
SHE KEPT SAYING SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE AN ACTOR.
BUT I WON'T HEAR OF IT. SHE WAS BORN TO BE ONE
!!!

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ANNOYED
UHH
?
DON'T PRAISE OTHER PEOPLE THAT HIGHLY, ALRIGHT?
WHY ARE YOU SULKING ?
THEN ...
DIDN'T YOU GET INTO THIS INDUSTRY BECAUSE YOU WATCHED MY PLAY?

CHIEF SHIMAMURA'S VOICE!
He's Back!
Oe
THE PLAY YOU PERFORMED IN GOT POSITIVE REVIEWS
IT WAS MENTIONED IN THE STAGEPLAY MAGAZINE TOO
ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? I TRUST YOU. YOU'LL BE FINE ON ANY STAGE YOU STAND ON
BUT YOU WENT TO SEE SASAYA YUU'S PLAY INSTEAD
SHOUGO-SAN'S NEVER GONE TO SEE MY PLAY AT ALL
Because I was really worried about that girl
SHOUGO-SAN NEVER DID ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
Because I didn't trust her at all whatsoever
.....
YOU KNOW...

I NEVER ONCE SAW THAT AS AN ACTOR
DOES SHOUGO-SAN SEE ANY HIDDEN TALENT IN HER ?
BUT LET ME TELL YOU
EVEN NOW, I STILL CAN'T PICTURE MYSELF REGARDING HER AS MY RIVAL
YOUR RIVAL?
Ha ha ha
NO WAY

SHE'S MY RIVAL
IF YOU'RE GONNA USE THAT WORD, SAGAYA YUU IS DEFINITELY NOT YOUR MATCH
RIVAL !?
?
ha ha ha

明日の王様

UNIT 6

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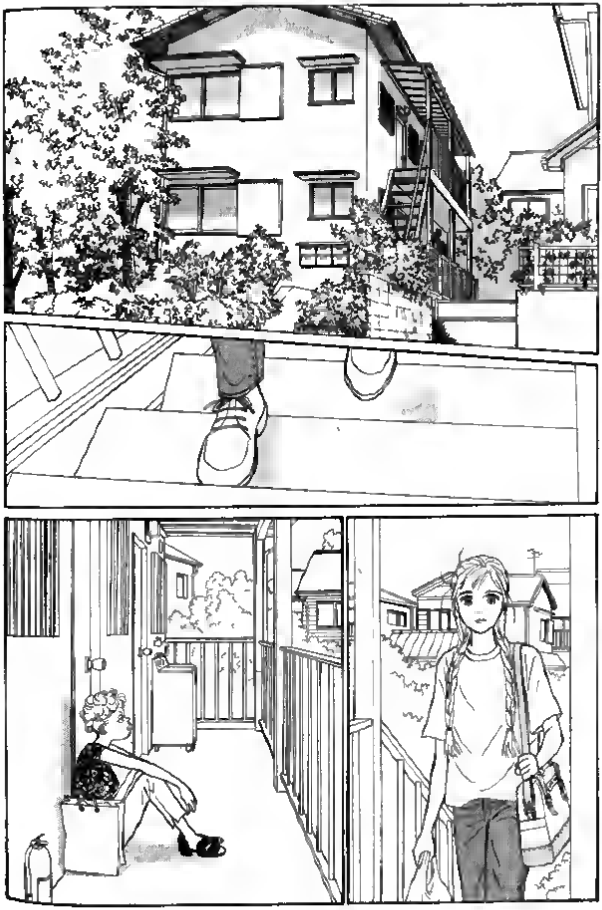
OH! YOU'RE HERE TOO? WHAT'S UP?
I QUIT
I'D LIKE TO LEAVE THE TROUPE!
I APOLOGIZE FOR ALL THE TROUBLE I'VE GIVEN YOU UP UNTIL NOW...
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING !!

.....
WHAT'S HER PROB-LEM?
DASH
EH?
'WELL' WHAT? DIDN'T SHE SAY ANY-THING TO YOU?
AT FIRST SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS HERE TO TELL SHOUGO-SAN THAT SHE HAD GIVEN UP ALL HOPE OF BECOMING AN ACTRESS.
HOW-EVER...
WELL...
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THAT GIRL?

HOW-EVER WHAT?
.....
..BUT IT'S BEEN FUN TOO
EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD GIVEN UP ON ACTING,
SHE SOUNDED LIKE SHE STILL WANTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TROUPE

OH, LET HER GO
SHE'S MADE UP HER MIND AND SAID SO HERSELF
ONE MONTH
ONE AND A HALF
TEN TO ONE
SHE'LL BE BACK
THAT CONFIDENT?
FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS LOST HER WILL, THE SOONER SHE'S GONE THE BETTER.
SHE'S NO BETTER THAN THOSE RUNAWAY WIMPS AFTER ALL
HEY YOU TWO !!
This isn't a game!



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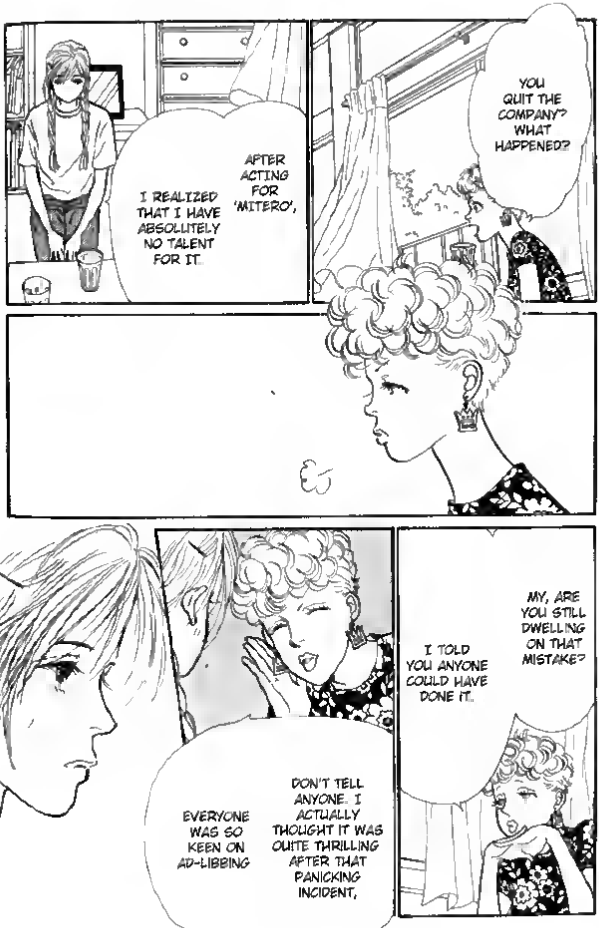
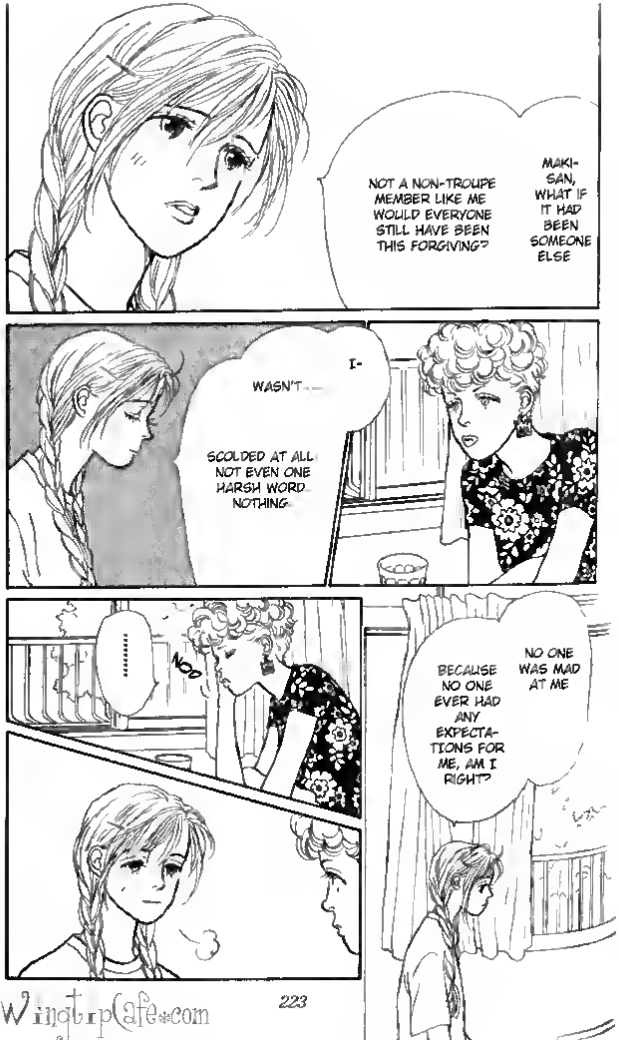

I REALIZED THAT I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO TALENT FOR IT.
AFTER ACTING FOR 'MITERO',
YOU QUIT THE COMPANY? WHAT HAPPENED?
EVERYONE WAS SO KEEN ON AD-LIBBING
DON'T TELL ANYONE. I ACTUALLY THOUGHT IT WAS QUITE THRILLING AFTER THAT PANICKING INCIDENT.
I TOLD YOU ANYONE COULD HAVE DONE IT.
MY, ARE YOU STILL DWELLING ON THAT MISTAKE?


MAKI-SAN, WHAT IF IT HAD BEEN SOMEONE ELSE
NOT A NON-TROUPE MEMBER LIKE ME WOULD EVERYONE STILL HAVE BEEN THIS FORGIVING?
I-
WASN'T...
SCOLDED AT ALL. NOT EVEN ONE HARSH WORD. NOTHING.
NO ONE WAS MAD AT ME
BECAUSE NO ONE EVER HAD ANY EXPECTA-TIONS FOR ME, AM I RIGHT?
.....
NOD

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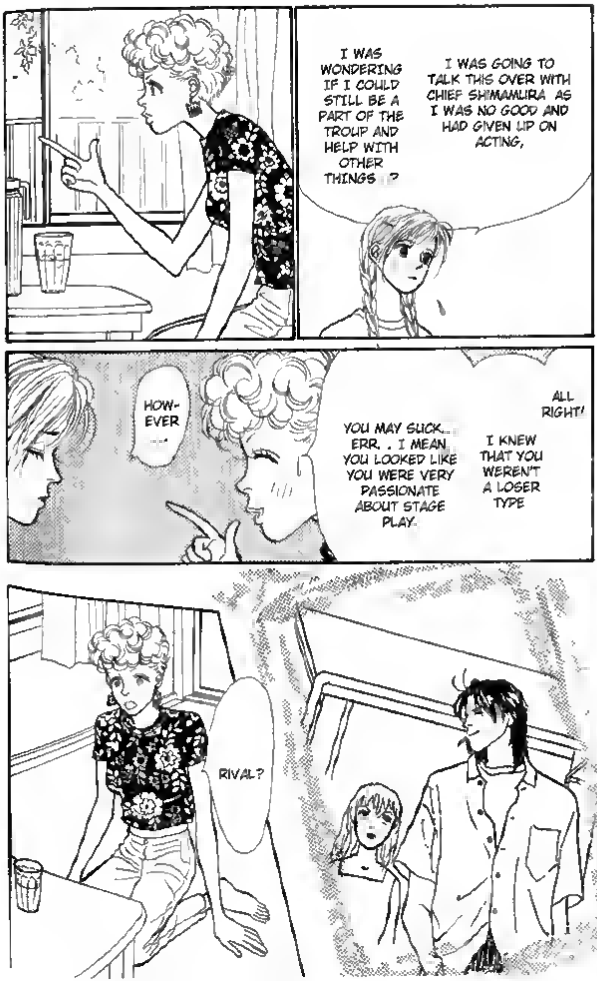
I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD STILL BE A PART OF THE TROUP AND HELP WITH OTHER THINGS ?
I WAS GOING TO TALK THIS OVER WITH CHIEF SHIMAMURA AS I WAS NO GOOD AND HAD GIVEN UP ON ACTING,
HOW-EVER ...
YOU MAY SUCK... ERR. . I MEAN, YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT STAGE PLAY.
I KNEW THAT YOU WEREN'T A LOSER TYPE
ALL RIGHT!
RIVAL?

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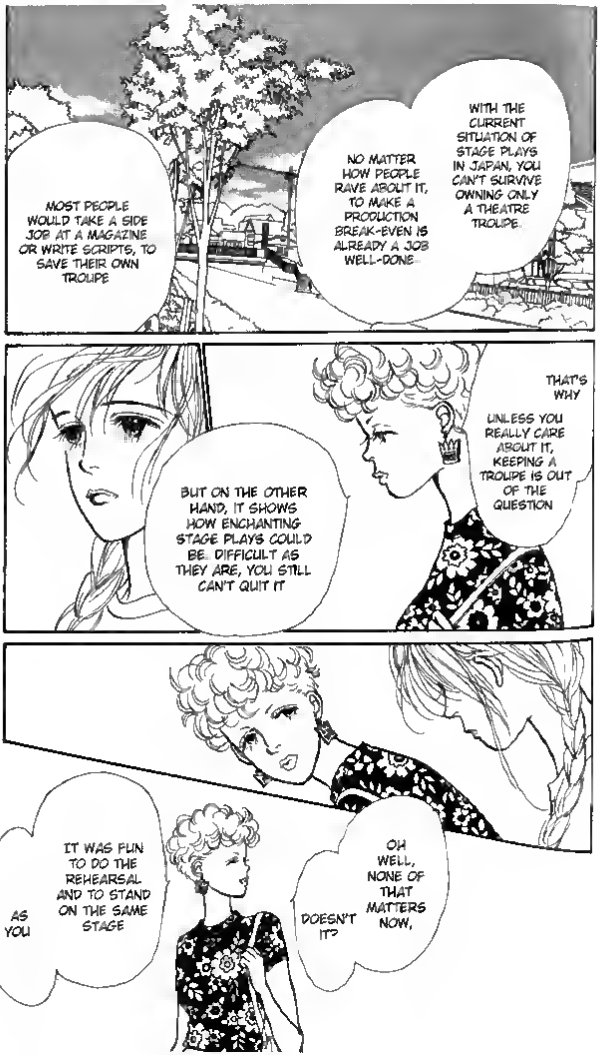
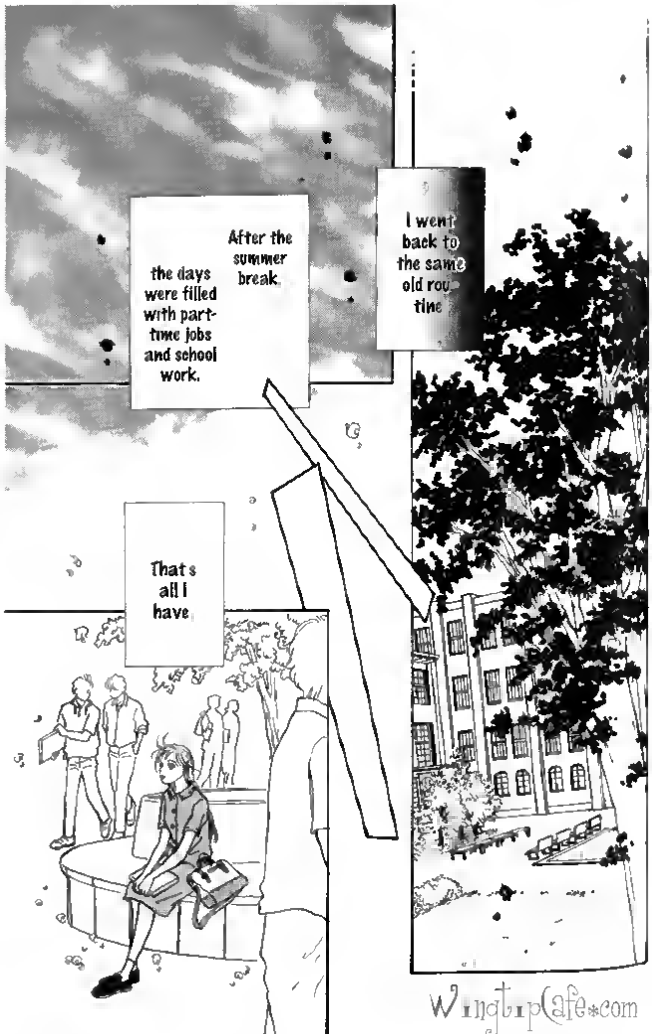
BUT NEVER BEFORE HAVE I BEEN MADE SUCH A COMPLETE LAUGHING-STOCK...
BEFORE ALL I GOT WAS 'YOU'RE NOT SUITED TO BE AN ACTOR' OR 'GIVE UP ALREADY', THOSE KINDS OF THINGS
ERM... SHIMAMURA-SAN MIGHT...
BUT IT HURT ME TO THE CORE.
FOR CHIEF, IT'S PROBABLY JUST A GOOD LAUGH,
WHATEVER!
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO QUIT.

I'M A FAN OF SHIMAMURA SHOUGO, YOU KNOW
?
TOO BAD
I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE A CHANCE YUU-CHAN WOULD INTRODUCE ME TO SHIMAMURA-SAN.
IT'S EMBARRASSING TO SAY I WAS SO HOOKED WITH 'THE LOST KEY' THAT I SAW IT IN MY DREAM.
'THE LOST KEY'?
DON'T YOU KNOW? THAT CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED RADIO DRAMA RIGHT NOW
HOW ABOUT THE HOTTEST DRAMA SERIES WRITTEN BY SHIMAMURA SHOUGO?
AND THOSE COLUMNS HE WROTE FOR 'YOUTH MONTHLY'?
Since when?
Amazing
CHIEF DOES THAT STUFF TOO?


MOST PEOPLE WOULD TAKE A SIDE JOB AT A MAGAZINE OR WRITE SCRIPTS, TO SAVE THEIR OWN TROUPE
NO MATTER HOW PEOPLE RAVE ABOUT IT, TO MAKE A PRODUCTION BREAK-EVEN IS ALREADY A JOB WELL-DONE.
WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION OF STAGE PLAYS IN JAPAN, YOU CAN'T SURVIVE OWNING ONLY A THEATRE TROUPE.
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, IT SHOWS HOW ENCHANTING STAGE PLAYS COULD BE. DIFFICULT AS THEY ARE, YOU STILL CAN'T QUIT IT
THAT'S WHY UNLESS YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT IT, KEEPING A TROUPE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION
AS YOU IT WAS FUN TO DO THE REHEARSAL AND TO STAND ON THE SAME STAGE
DOESN'T IT? OH WELL, NONE OF THAT MATTERS NOW,

I quit.
Both the company and stage plays
I've quit them all


After the summer break,
the days were filled with part-time jobs and school work.
I went back to the same old routine.
That's all I have.

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JUST DRAINED AFTER THE JAPANESE LITERATURE CLASS REPORT...
...NOT SPACED OUT!
OH, OH, RIGHT
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE SPACED OUT LIKE YOU'VE LOST YOUR SOUL
OOPS SORRY.
NO PROB-LEM.
CAN I COPY THEM, PLEASE? ♡♡
YOU TOOK NOTES IN EVERY LECTURE, DIDN'T YOU?
OF COURSE, THE ANNUAL UNIVERSITY FAIR IS DRAWING NEAR
OUR SCHOOL SEEMS TO BE MORE BUSTLING THAN USUAL

AH, THE ANNUAL UNIVERSITY FAIR...?
HEY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
SIGH
.THERE IS A THEATRE TROUPE IN OUR SCHOOL?
YEAH, BUT IT'S JUST A DRAMA CLUB.
HEY! I'LL TAKE THE BOOK TO MAKE A COPY, OKAY?
Give it back to you later

BUT WITHOUT IT, I DON'T KNOW HOW WE'RE GOING TO EXPRESS THE GIST OF THE STORY
TOLD YOU WE DON'T NEED ANYTHING GLOOMY IN THIS ACT
COME ON, CAN'T WE CHANGE IT? WITH A SENTENCE THIS LONG, I'M GOING TO BITE MY TONGUE SAYING IT
.....
Theory isn't everything, you know. It sure doesn't sound natural at all.
Are you sure cuzzy acting to perform that in front of the audience?
INSTEAD OF DISCUSSING WHY DON'T THEY JUST ACT IT OUT AND SEE?
WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO DO THE REHEARSAL?

NOT REALLY. JUST LOOKING AROUND
WELCOME
Drama CLUB
DO YOU WANT TO BE A STAR?
DO YOU WANT TO BE A MEMBER?
I'm not part of the theater world
Sorry, Don't interested
NOT INTERESTED NOT INTERESTED
gulp.
Tickets
anymore

Click
THANK YOU, YUU-CHAN THAT'S ALL
YUU-CHAN?
Y-
YES?
AM I DOING?
WHAT EXACTLY
BUT
THIS IS
ALL I HAVE

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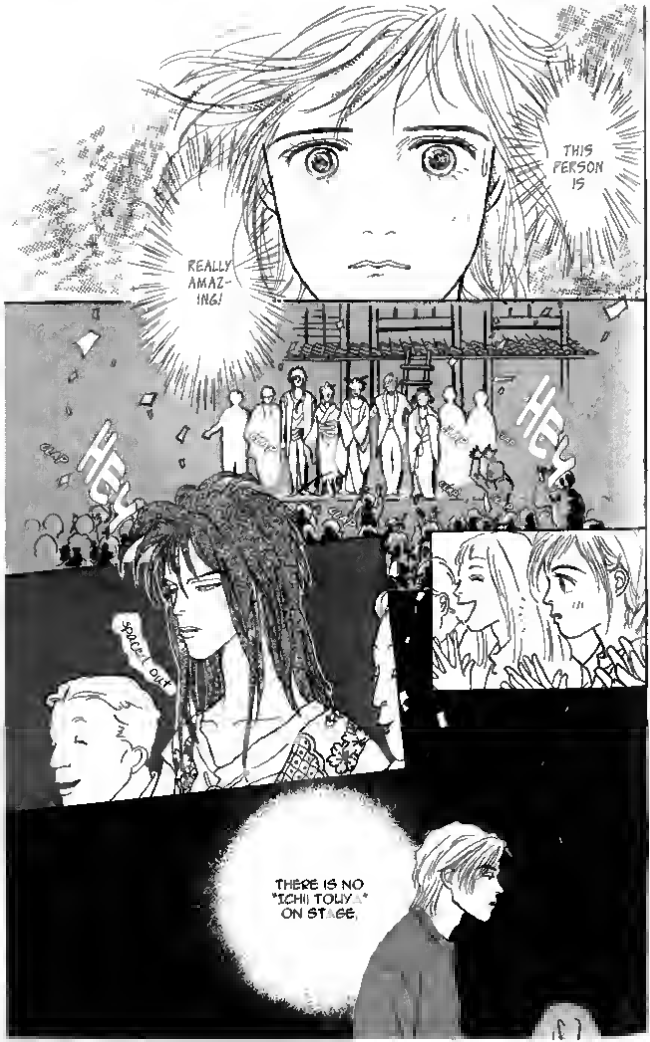
"Yes! This is it!"
I remember somewhere in my heart shouting
The thrill I felt that time is still fresh in my mind.
Granny
YUU, HURRY AND FIND YOUR PATH

I remember the strong confidence that rushed through me
"I've found it."
RESERVATIONS ARE CLOSED.
YOU'D BETTER BUY IT AT THE DOOR.
I've got it
Queue please


THIS PERSON IS
REALLY AMAZ-ING!
HEY!
HEY!
SPACE OUT
THERE IS NO "ICHII TOJU" ON STAGE.

AFTER CURTAIN CALLS, I STILL CAN'T SHAKE OFF THE FEELING
I FEEL LIKE I'VE NEVER HEARD THE AUDIENCE'S APPLAUSE
EXCUSE ME,
LET ME THROUGH, PLEASE.
EH?
EX-
BUMP
AH, THIS PERSON REALLY LOVES STAGE PLAYS
WITH HIS HEART

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Later
THERE'S A PARTY AFTER-WARDS
FU FU TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF THE PLAY.
OH, OKAY.
MICHIKO, THIS WAY.
OH! YOU'RE HERE TOO
YOSHI-SAWA-SAN

TOUYA -SAN!
What're you doing here?
ACK!
Two. Make it quick.
I HEARD FROM YOSHISAWA-SAN THAT YOU'RE HAVING A PARTY TODAY.
IS THIS REALLY OK?

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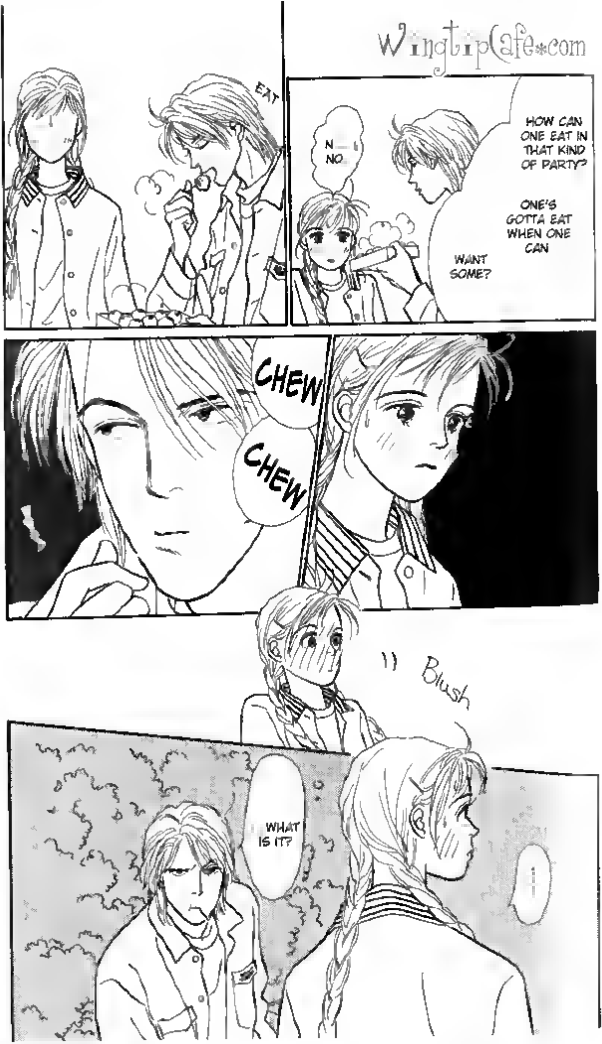

HOW WAS IT?
WHAT? YOU WENT TO SEE IT TOO?
...I DON'T KNOW. I FEEL LIKE I'M TALKING TO THE CHARACTER 'KIGEMARU' FROM THE PLAY...
SO I'M KINDA FREAK OUT
EERIE
OF COURSE
THIS TIME I WAS A CRUEL VILLAIN.
THOUGH THERE WAS NO SCENE THAT SHOWED ACTUAL VIOLENCE,
BUT . EVERY TIME 'KIGEMARU' MOVED

MY BODY TINGLED WITH FEAR
IT SENT A CHILL UP MY SPINE
AIN'T I A GENIUS!?
OF COURSE
HEY, I WAS JOKING
BUT I WAS SERIOUS
I WAS THRILLED EVERY TIME I WATCHED IT

Y-YEAH I HAD TO BUY THE TICKET ON THE DAY OF THE PERFORMANCE SO THERE WERE DAYS I COULDN'T GET THE TICKET BUT... ALTOGETHER NINE DAYS
EVERY TIME?
THAT'S WHAT A GOOD PLAY IS LIKE
NO MATTER WHAT, I NEVER GOT TIRED OF IT
THE EMOTION OF THE ACTORS
PASSED ON TO THE AUDIENCE
I COULDN'T REMOVE MY EYES FROM TOUYA-SAN'S 'KIGEMARU'
TOUYA-SAN IN A COOL ROLE IS NICE
BUT SOMETIMES I'D LOVE TO SEE TOUYA-SAN
PLAYING AN UNRULY DELINQUENT OR PITIABLE BUM.

OH
RECENTLY I DID A RESEARCH FOR A CLASS ASSIGNMENT AND FOUND AN INTERESTING JAPANESE FOLKLORE
IT'S FUN JUST TO THINK HOW TOUYA-SAN WILL ACT IT OUT
OR A RE-TARDED JOKER EVEN
IT'S CALLED 'THE AGE-CHANGING MOUNTAIN PASS'
IN THE HEART OF A REMOTE MOUNTAIN STOOD A FEEBLE SHACK. THERE LIVED AN OLD MAN OF AN ANCIENT AGE.
ONCE IN A WHILE A TRAVELER WOULD PASS BY AND THE OLD MAN WOULD INVITE HIM TO TEA AND TELL HIM STORY AFTER STORY.
AFTER HE FINISHED EACH STORY, THE OLD MAN GOT YOUNGER

A YOUNG MAN TO A TEENAGER.
THE OLD MAN TURNED INTO A YOUNG MAN.
WHEN I WAS READING
I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO TURN THAT INTO A PLAY.
A PLAY WHICH
THE MAIN CHARACTER, THE OLD MAN IS PLAYED BY ICHII TOUYA.
MOREOVER, IT WOULD BE A SOLO PERFORMANCE
WITHOUT ANY OTHER ACTORS.

ON STAGE WOULD BE TWO SHABBY STOOLS,
RAGGED FLEECE,
AND CHIPPED BOWLS.
THE REST IS JUST SPOT-LIGHT AND SOUND
AH...

AND AFTER THAT?
CONTINUE
I...
I CAN'T SHAKE THEM OUT OF MY HEAD.
STAGE PLAYS NO MATTER HOW HARD I'VE TRIED.
EVENTUALLY I'LL END UP THINKING ABOUT THEM
NO MATTER WHAT I DO.
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JUST THE ACTING, RIGHT?
ACTORS AREN'T THE ONLY THINGS THAT MATTER IN A PRODUCTION
I'VE ALREADY SAID I QUIT.
IT HAPPENS TO EVERYONE, ME INCLUDED
THAT'S HOW WE MAKE A GOOD PLAY.
THE FIRST TIME WE MET, YOU SAID OUT LOUD
"THIS IS IT. I'VE FOUND THE PATH I WANT TO WALK ON."

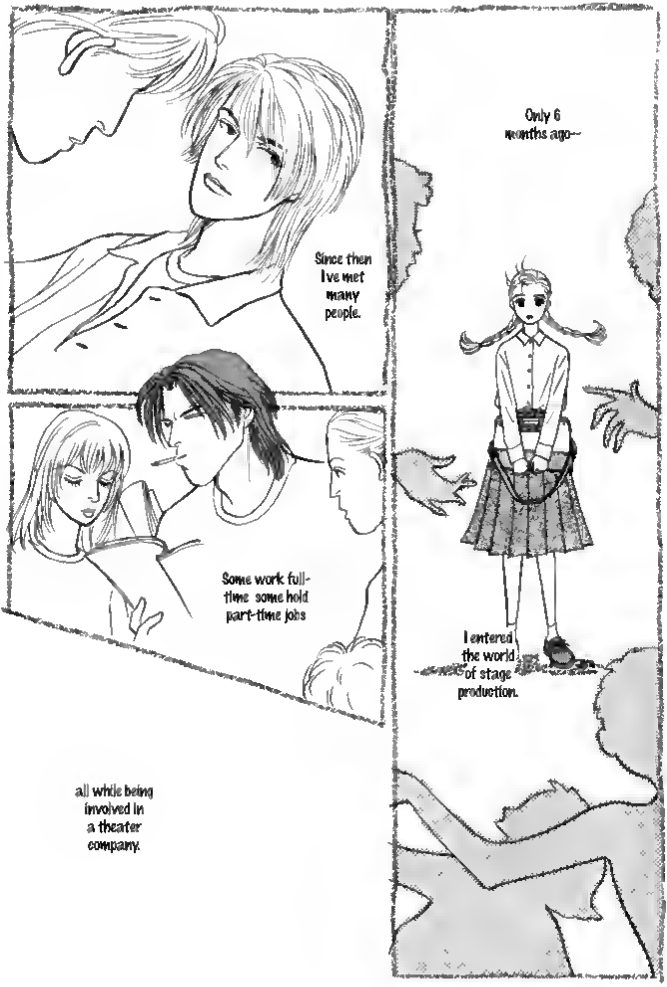
IF ALL YOU CAN THINK OF IS STAGE PLAYS, THEN YOU'VE CHOSEN THE RIGHT PATH
IF THAT FACE WASN'T A LIE,
COME BACK

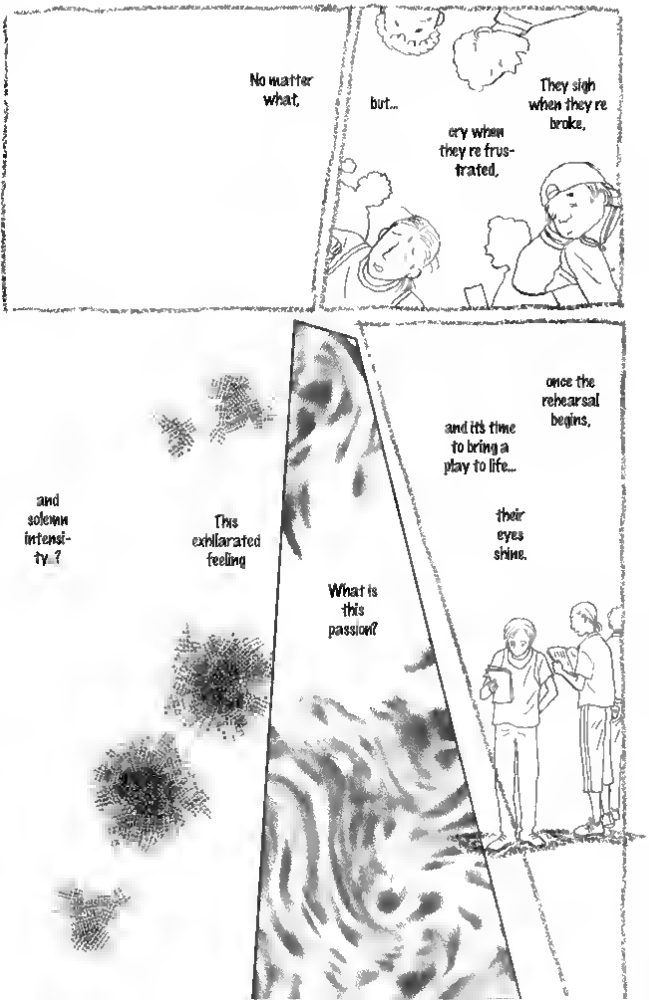
AND ...
SOMEDAY TURN 'AGE-CHANGING MOUNTAIN PASS' INTO A PLAY.
THEN
DON'T FORGET.
THE LEAD ROLE MUST BE ME.
CRAP.
I NEED TO GO TO THAT PARTY.

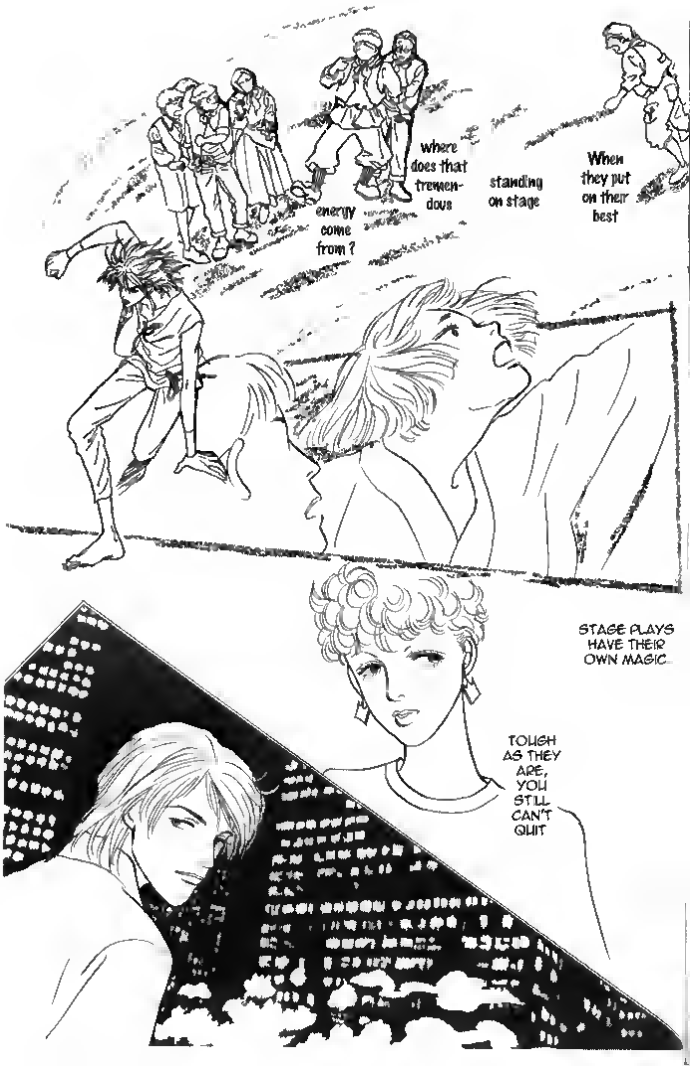
YOU KNOW
YOU CAN NEVER REALLY QUIT
OI
BUT—
BLAM!
IF YOU'RE SERIOUSLY GOING TO GO BACK, WHY DON'T YOU THINK ABOUT IT FOR A LITTLE LONGER
LIKE HALF A MONTH

As long as I have a courage,
can I really
YOU CAN NEVER REALLY QUIT.
COME BACK
continue down this path?
Granny
END CHAPTER 6

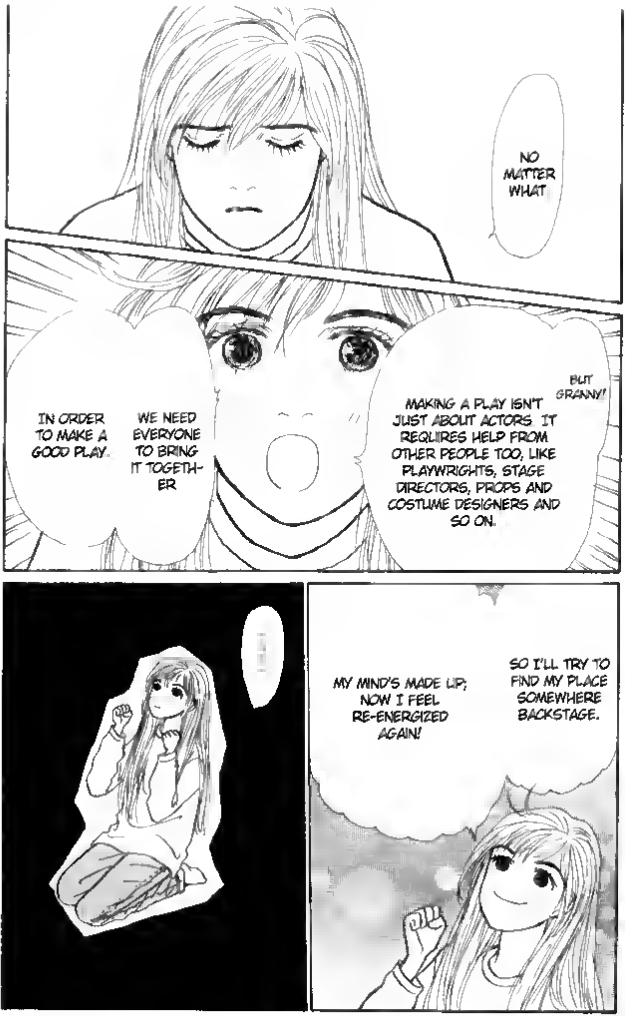
Ashita no Ousama
UNIT 7


Only 6 months ago--
I entered the world of stage production.
Since then I've met many people.
Some work full-time some hold part-time jobs
all while being involved in a theater company.


No matter what,
but...
They sigh when they're broke,
cry when they're frustrated,
once the rehearsal begins,
and it's time to bring a play to life...
their eyes shine.
What is this passion?
This exhilarated feeling
and solemn intensity...?


energy come from?
where does that tremendous
standing on stage
When they put on their best
STAGE PLAYS HAVE THEIR OWN MAGIC...
TOUGH AS THEY ARE, YOU STILL CAN'T QUIT

"YOU CAN NEVER QUIT THEATER..."
IT'S TRUE, GRANNY
I KNOW I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT TO BE AN ACTRESS, BUT I JUST CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THEATER.


NO MATTER WHAT
BUT GRANNY!
MAKING A PLAY ISN'T JUST ABOUT ACTORS. IT REQUIRES HELP FROM OTHER PEOPLE TOO, LIKE PLAYWRIGHTS, STAGE DIRECTORS, PROPS AND COSTUME DESIGNERS AND SO ON.
WE NEED EVERYONE TO BRING IT TOGETHER
IN ORDER TO MAKE A GOOD PLAY.
SO I'LL TRY TO FIND MY PLACE SOMEWHERE BACKSTAGE.
MY MIND'S MADE UP; NOW I FEEL RE-ENERGIZED AGAIN!

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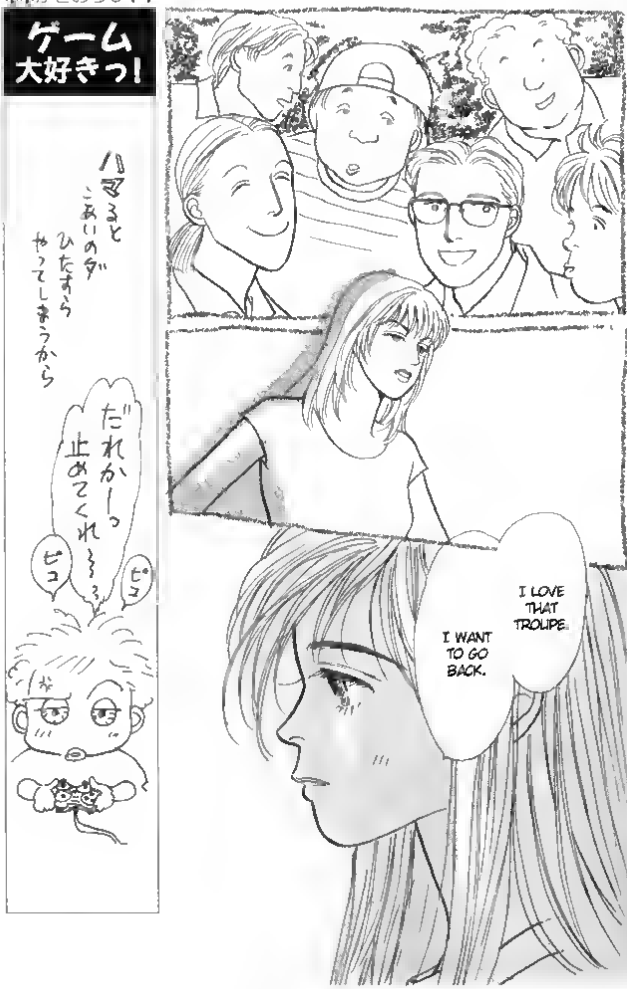
I'D LIKE TO LEAVE THE TROUPE!
I
THE PROBLEM IS...
MY RIVAL, MAYBE
AT THAT TIME, I WAS CONFUSED,
SO I THOUGHT HE CONSIDERED ME A JOKE. IT ANGERED ME.
BUT ACTUALLY I SHOULD HAVE STOOD UP AND SAID "JUST WATCH ME!"
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
Just to show him my guts.

かきおろし

ゲーム大好きっ!



WILL THEY FORGIVE ME?
MISORE-SAN WILL PROBABLY MAKE A FACE AND SAY 'I THOUGHT SO'.
SO WILL EVERYONE ELSE...
'OH, HERE WE GO AGAIN...'
GIVE ME A CHANCE.
JUST ONE MORE TIME, PLEASE.
NO.
NOT YET.

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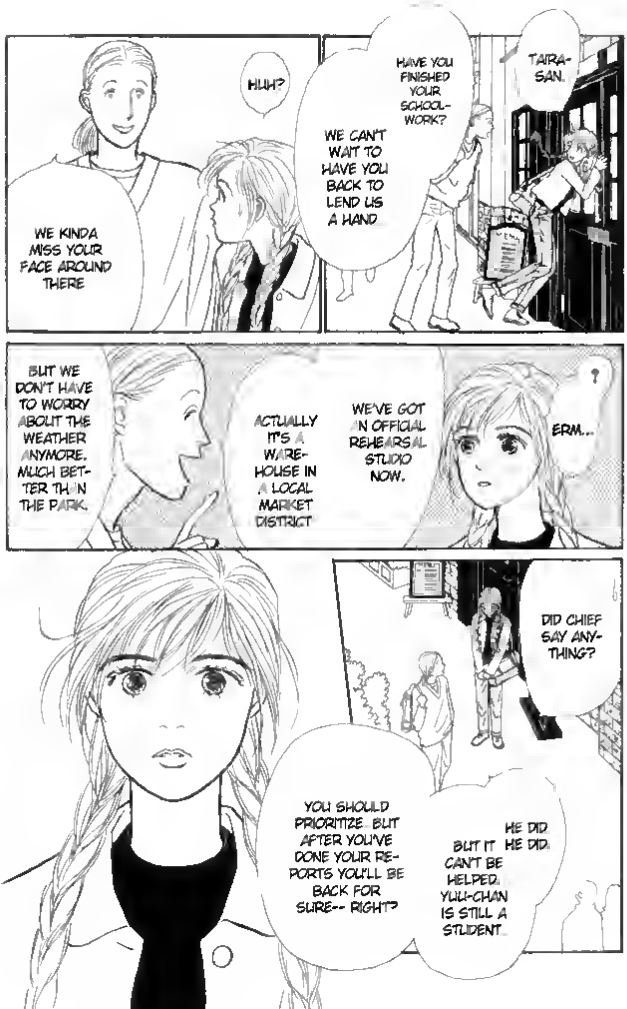
HUH?
WE KINDA MISS YOUR FACE AROUND THERE
TAIRA-SAN.
HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR SCHOOL-WORK?
WE CAN'T WAIT TO HAVE YOU BACK TO LEND US A HAND.
ERM...
?
WE'VE GOT AN OFFICIAL REHEARSAL STUDIO NOW.
ACTUALLY IT'S A WARE-HOUSE IN A LOCAL MARKET DISTRICT
BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE WEATHER ANYMORE. MUCH BET-TER THAN THE PARK.
DID CHIEF SAY ANY-THING?
HE DID. HE DID. BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED. YUU-CHAN IS STILL A STUDENT.
YOU SHOULD PRIORITIZE BUT AFTER YOU'VE DONE YOUR RE-PORTS YOU'LL BE BACK FOR SURE-- RIGHT?

CHIEF SHIMAMURA
MY RE-PORTS ARE ALL DONE
OH, YUU-CHAN IS BACK
HEY, LONG TIME NO SEE
STUDENT LIFE IS TOUGH, AIN'T IT?

I'M BACK
LISTEN!
MISORE-SAN, UMM...
I DON'T CARE IF YOU STAY OR QUIT
JUST DON'T SWITCH BACK AND FORTH IT'S ANNOYING, YOU HEAR?
IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE, RUN TO THE END OF THE WORLD AND DON'T EVER COME BACK.
.....
I WON'T SAY THAT ANYMORE.

OH.
REALLY, SHOUGO-SAN IS WAY TOO KIND.
ARE YOU DONE WITH YOUR REPORTS?
AH.
I'M SORRY FOR MY INSOLENT BEHAVIOR.
PLEASE ACCEPT ME BACK INTO THE TROUPE AGAIN

ERM...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT CHIEF WAS THINKING CALLING ME A RIVAL--
WHATEVER I CAN DO TO HELP...
AND WHAT ROLE DO YOU SEE FOR YOURSELF IN THE TROUPE THIS TIME?
BUT I'LL TRY TO BRING MYSELF UP TO SOMETHING LIKE A "COLLEAGUE."
FOR ME, "COLLEAGUE" DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A CLOWN.
YOU THINK 'COLLEAGUE' IS HIGHER THAN 'RIVAL'?

GOOD. FROM NOW ON WE'LL TRAIN YOU HARD READY?
YES!
YES, TOUYA-SAN
OH, I SHOULD GO AND LET HIM KNOW.
"LET HIM KNOW" ?
HE'S THE ONE WHO ENCOUR-AGED ME TO COME BACK.

HEY!
OH
HEH...?
HE DID?
NO. BUT I'LL FIND HIM AT ELOQUENCE'S STUDIO.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HIS APARTMENT IS?
A waste of time.
THEY JUST FINISHED A PRODUCTION; THERE'S PROBABLY NO ONE THERE.

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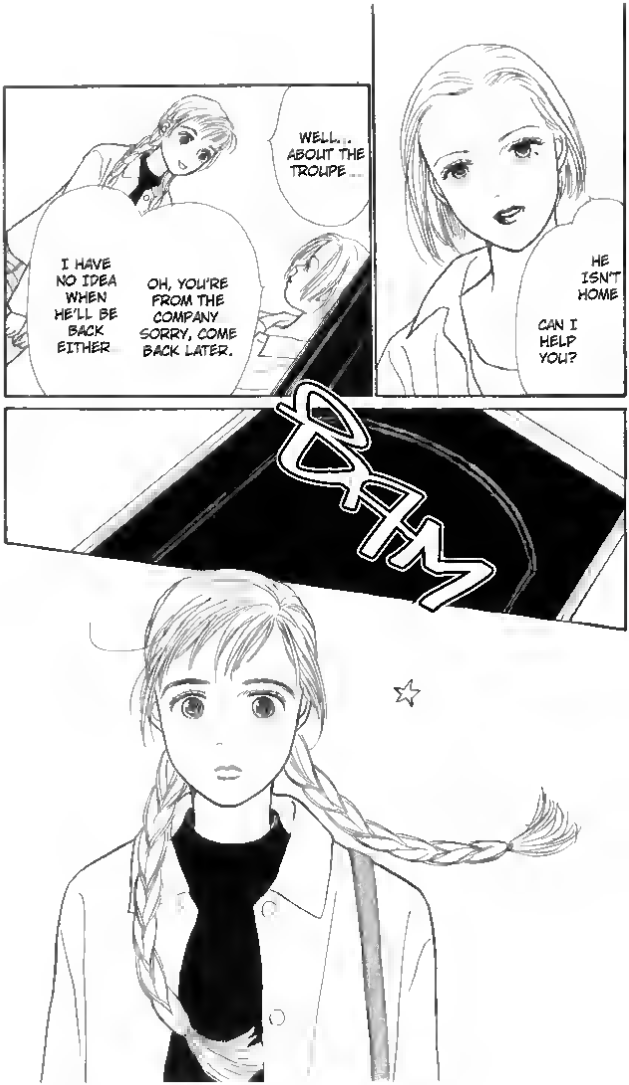
WHO-- ARE YOU?
LIM...
ERM...
ICHII TOUYA-SAN...
MY NAME IS SASAYA YUU...


HE ISN'T HOME
CAN I HELP YOU?
WELL... ABOUT THE TROUPE...
OH, YOU'RE FROM THE COMPANY SORRY, COME BACK LATER.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN HE'LL BE BACK EITHER
CLICK

STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
TURN
STEP
STEP

IT'S ONLY NATURAL HE'D HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND
TOTALLY NORMAL
WELL
THE ODD ONE IS ME WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE
THE ICHII TOUYA PLAYING A CHARACTER
IS THE ONE ON STAGE
THE ICHII TOUYA I ADMIRED--

"AND DON'T FORGET... THE LEAD ROLE MUST BE ME."
"TURN 'THE AGE-CHANGING MOUNTAIN PASS' INTO A PLAY."
TO MAKE A DRAMA--
TO-GETH-ER,
GO
GO

HEY!
SCREECH
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

BLUSH!
OH
HEY.
?
?
I WANTED TO TELL YOU I'M BACK AT GARANDOU NOW.
OH, YOU DID? AND YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO TELL ME THAT?
ALL RIGHT. SINCE YOU'RE HERE, WHY DON'T YOU COME UP FOR COFFEE? MY PLACE IS RIGHT THERE

A GIRL?
PAUSE
I'D RATHER NOT. THERE'S A GIRL INSIDE WAITING FOR YOU. SEE YOU LATER.
?
SHE BULLIED HER WAY IN AGAIN
HOP ON!
EH?
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MOTORCYCLE
W-
WHERE'RE WE GOING?
IN K-TOWN.
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
A BIT FAR
BUT WHAT THE HELL
CAN I CRASH AT YOUR PLACE TONIGHT?

散歩大好きっ！

運動不足でふ。ちかい的に！

こまかいおとなりの犬たちの散歩にまぜてもらっている

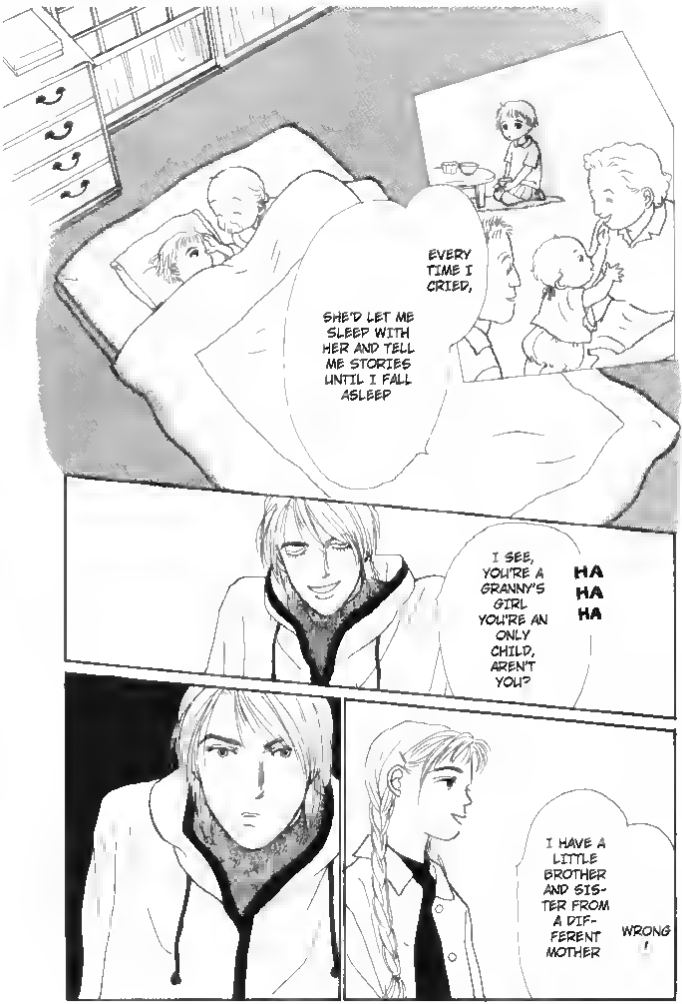
でも最近はさびすけ(犬)が年とってしまい長い散歩はできなくなってしまった

やっぱり運動不足でふぅぅ

ALL THIS--
BECAUSE WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE MIDDLE-SCHOOL SHE CALLS EVERY-ONE I KNOW TO KEEP TRACK OF ME.
SHE ALWAYS SHOWS UP WITH-OUT WARN-ING.
IF I'M NOT THERE, SHE'LL CALL EVERY PLACE I NOR-MALLY GO TO.
HERE I CAN SLEEP IN PEACE ♪
AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A PHONE.
HA HA HA
BUT CLEVER AS SHE MAY BE, SHE'LL NEVER THINK OF THIS PLACE.
NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT.
ANYWAY ...
DID YOU GUYS HAVE A FIGHT?

WHAT A DULL ROOM FOR A GIRL
ERM ...
YOU THINK ?
THE FUTON IS HERE TOILET IS BESIDE THE DOOR.
OH AND IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, THERE ARE SOME CROQUETTES AND STEAMED YAM IN THE FRIDGE
YAM ?
RUSH
RUSH
RUSH
RUSH
CHANGING AND GETTING MY CLASS NOTES.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
I'LL STAY OVER AT A FRIEND'S, TOUYA-SAN, PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
HEY!
WHY ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE ELSE?
OH,
BUT ...

I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH ENERGY LEFT. TAKE IT EASY
DON'T WORRY. I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT PARTYING WITH FRIENDS WITHOUT A WINK OF SLEEP.
UH-HUH!
YOU THINK I'M GONNA TRY SOME-THING?
SHE LOOKS LIKE A KIND WOMAN.
OH!
THAT'S MY GRANNY. SHE PASSED AWAY TWO YEARS AGO.
SHE WAS.


EVERY TIME I CRIED,
SHE'D LET ME SLEEP WITH HER AND TELL ME STORIES UNTIL I FALL ASLEEP
I SEE, YOU'RE A GRANNY'S GIRL YOU'RE AN ONLY CHILD, AREN'T YOU?
HA HA HA
I HAVE A LITTLE BROTHER AND SISTER FROM A DIFFERENT MOTHER
WRONG!

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EH?
HOW ABOUT TOLYA-SAN?
MY MOM DIED BEFORE I TURNED EIGHT THEN DAD MARRIED MY CURRENT MOM.
I HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER
HE'S WORKING IN NEW YORK RIGHT NOW.
BRO LETS ME USE HIS APARTMENT WHILE HE'S GONE
HM?
I WAS WONDERING WHAT TOLYA-SAN'S PARENTS AND BROTHER WERE LIKE.

GRANNY
VERY ORDI-NARY
SITS AN ICHII TOUYA-SAN
RIGHT NOW IN MY "VERY DULL ROOM"
IT'S AMAZING
BUT A REAL GUY BORN FROM VERY ORDINARY PAR-ENTS WHO HAS AN OLDER BROTHER
NOT A CHARACTER IN A NOVEL

AS IF
HE'S SITTING MY IN ROOM
I TOTALLY FORGOT
I'LL MAKE SOME RIGHT NOW
TEA !!
DOZE
JOLT
DON'T BOTHER
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT.
THE LADY AT MY PART-TIME JOB JUST GAVE ME SOME GOOD TEA
JUST A LITTLE LONGER

TOUYA-SAN, HOW DID YOU END UP AS AN ACTOR?
GIVE ME MORE TIME...
BY ACCI-DENT.
HUH?
BY ACCI-DENT I--
GOT A CHANCE TO WATCH OUR DRAMA CLUB'S RE-HEARSAL
THE MORE I WATCHED, THE MORE I REALIZED HOW MUCH IT SUCKED.
I GOT ANNOYED AND BLURTED OUT THAT I COULD DO A LOT BETTER.
I GUESS I REALLY CAN
AFTER THAT I JUST HAD TO KEEP GOING...

THEIR HEADS WERE FULL OF THEO-RIES
YEAH-- ALWAYS READING THESE TYPE OF BOOKS
BEFORE DIGGING YOURSELF INTO THIS CRAP,
I SAY IT'LL DO YOU MORE GOOD TO GO OUT ON THE STREETS AND WATCH REAL PEOPLE
EH?
YOU READ THESE MAGA-ZINES TOO?
Fashion 10

LEARN ?
ABOUT FASHION. BUT IT'S JUST BEYOND ME...
Fashion
OH!
MY FRIEND, MAKI, GAVE ME THOSE. SHE SAID I SHOULD LEARN FROM THEM.
ALL I DO IS MOON OVER THESE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE. WHATEVER I DO, I COULD NEVER...
FLIP
Fashion

IT'S HER !!
THE GIRL IN TOUYA-SAN'S APARTMENT!!
YEAH.. KINA'S BEEN A MODEL SINCE GRADE SCHOOL.

Wow she's in here too
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
TOLIYA-SAN, YOU'LL CATCH A COLD SLEEPING LIKE THIS

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